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THE TIMES

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THURSDAY DECEMBER 20 1984

20p

Tomorrow

The art of fraud
How unscrupulous
dealers are
teaming up to
rig art prices



Font of wisdom
On the day
Prince Henry is
christened - the
role of godparents
Golden decade
Why gold has become
an economic
pointer in the
past 10 years
Men of words
Philip Howard takes
a hard-look at
former editors
of The Times

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio competition prize of £2,000 was shared by two winners yesterday. Mrs Wyn Bullock of Ealing, London, and Mr D Scagell of Weybridge, Surrey each received £1,000. Portfolio list, page 14; how to play, information service, back page.

Gas prices up 4.5% in February

Gas prices are to rise by 4.5 per cent from February 1 next year, British Gas announced. There will be no increase in standing charges and the corporation said that it intends to hold prices for the rest of 1985.

Unesco's loss

The United States announced that its withdrawal from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization would become effective on December 31.

Lord St Oswald

Lord St Oswald, a junior minister in the Macmillan Government, died suddenly yesterday in his London home at the age of 68.

Spy satellite

Mr Casper Weinberger, US Defence Secretary, attacked The Washington Post for disclosing that the next space shuttle will launch a spy satellite. Page 6

Videos seized

South African security police raided T.N.'s offices in Johannesburg and seized more than 30 video cassettes containing material shot over a two-year period. Page 6

Svetlana move

Svetlana Alliluyeva, Stalin's daughter, is reported to be planning to live in her father's native republic of Georgia with her American-born daughter, Olga. Page 6

Heroin death

Lady Gormanston, aged 29, wife of the premier viscount of Ireland, died of an overdose of heroin, a Westminster inquest was told. Page 3

Sudan sorrow

Robert Fisk continues his reports on the efforts to help famine victims who have struggled over the Ethiopian border into Sudan. Page 6

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An open letter to Mrs Thatcher on easing unemployment; the intractable problems facing the famine-relief workers; Ronald Butt on middle-class guilt
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Government wins by 100 as rebels hold fire on cuts

By Julian Haviland and Richard Evans

The Government yesterday contained the threatened rebellion over freezing of local authority assets with apparent ease, and by a majority of 100, but only after extreme exertions by the whips and because some rebels are holding their fire.

Proof of ministers' concern was the appearance for the second time this week of the Chief Whip, Mr John Wakeham, who cast his first vote since he was severely injured in the Brighton bombing. At least one minister, Mr John MacGregor, who was in Brussels, was flown back to Westminster to vote.

More than 30 Conservatives declined to support the Government in spite of the pressure. At least two voted with the opposition. About 20 showed their defiance by sitting out the division in the chamber.

On another sector of the front the Government is defending Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, was preparing for a tactical retreat by temporarily setting aside his Civil Aviation Bill.

In the emergency debate over the proposed cuts in council spending, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, was allowed an easier passage by Conservative critics who had mauled him the previous day.

But they made plain that, while unwilling to follow the Labour Party into the lobbies on this occasion, they were keeping their powder dry for a

vote in the spring when orders will be presented to Parliament to reduce the proportion of capital receipts which local authorities will be permitted to spend.

Mr John Cunningham, Labour's chief spokesman on the environment, said Government management of local authority capital spending was abysmal. He urged the Tory rebels to show their mettle by recording their votes.

Mr Cunningham said there was a need for more public investment in housing with homelessness increasing and this year seeing the lowest number of council house completions ever recorded.

The total cut in money available to local authorities, he said, was well over £600 million - a cut of about 20 per cent in real terms.

Mr Cunningham said the Treasury was using council capital receipts to massage the public spending borrowing requirement, when they should be used to regenerate the economy, house people and create jobs in the construction industry.

One Conservative maverick, Dr Keith Hampson, used much the same language, contrasting what he called the real world and the accounting world of the PSBR.

Mr Geoffrey Ripon, who did Mr Jenkin's job in the previous Conservative government, said they might not need to oppose the statutory instruments if Mr Jenkin was prepared to let

councils use their capital receipts "in a proper way" where a case could be made.

But there was vocal majority support from the Conservative benches for Mr Jenkin's defence of his restraints, which he said left at the heart of the Government's economic strategy.

Mr Ridley looks set to "freeze" his controversial Civil Aviation Bill for up to a year following the embarrassing rebellion by Conservative MPs opposed to a major expansion of Stansted airport.

Although he was said last night to be considering his options following the unprecedented blocking of the Bill's progress by the committee set up to examine it, MPs were confidently predicting that the Minister will tell the Commons this afternoon that he will not proceed until the future of Stansted is decided.

The Commons will hold a debate early next year, probably lasting two days, in the recently published Stansted Public Inquiry Report which recommends expansion of the airport.

Mr Ridley and Mr Ian Gow, the Minister for Housing and Construction are unlikely to pronounce on Stansted's future until June or July.

The current stalemate stems from the fact of Conservative rebels that the legislation presupposes a decision on Stansted's future by giving ministers power to set rigid limits on flights into Heathrow.

Washington seeks new extradition agreement

From Christopher Thomas Washington

The United States and Britain have agreed to renegotiate their extradition agreement to stop terrorists from the IRA and other groups escaping to a legal haven in America. Preliminary discussions between Washington and Westminster have already opened.

The US Administration is appalled at last week's decision by Judge John Appizzo in New York to refuse to extradite a convicted IRA member and murderer because his crime was allegedly a political act. There is no appeal against the ruling.

Joseph Patrick Thomas Doherty, convicted of murdering a British soldier in Belfast, escaped from a jail there in June 1981, two days before a judge found him guilty of murder, attempted murder, possession of illegal weapons and membership of the IRA. He is being held in a New York prison without bail as an illegal alien and has applied for political asylum. If he is turned down, he will be deported.

Mr Stephen Trott, head of the criminal division of the United States Justice Department, told The Times that America would seek to renegotiate the extradition treaties with a number of countries "because we do not want unwittingly to provide sanctuary for these violent criminals". The aim was to remove the "political offence" exclusion of the treaties.

The judge's ruling last week was outrageous, "I think it is crazy that terrorists can run across a border and repeal the whole penal code of a country. It does not make any sense. We have got to get rid of this political offence nonsense among free, friendly nations."

The Home Office confirmed last night that officials had been "taking a look" at the extradition agreement, but denied it was with a view to negotiating a new one (Henry Stanhope writes).

"We are very happy with the treaty we have," a spokesman said.

New defence buyer to be paid £95,000

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

The Government yesterday announced the appointment of a new Chief of Defence Procurement, who will be responsible for the spending of about £8 billion a year of government money and will be the highest paid man in Whitehall, with a salary of £95,000.

The job at the Ministry of Defence is to be taken from next March by Mr Peter Levene, at present chairman and managing director of United Scientific Holdings, a big defence contractor.

Until July Mr Levene was for six months personal adviser to Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence.

The choice, which is certain to cause controversy, prompted a demand by Mr Bill McCall, general secretary of the Institution of Professional Civil Servants, for a parliamentary inquiry "into the manner and circumstances of this outrageous appointment."

Mr Heseltine has in effect split the present job of Chief of Defence Procurement into two, with the present holder, Mr David Perry, moving to a newly-created post as Chief of Defence Equipment Collaboration, concentrating on multinational procurement projects.

Both Mr Levene, aged 43, and Mr Perry, who is 53, will have the status of Permanent Secretary.



Mr Levene: Will have £8bn budget.

Secretary Mr Perry, however, has a salary of £42,750, the standard rate for Permanent Secretaries.

Mr Levene said last night that he would be taking a cut in income. His last published salary with United Scientific Holdings was £140,000.

His appointment as a temporary adviser to Mr Heseltine caused controversy, with suggestions of possible conflicts of interest.

On taking up his new appointment at the ministry, initially for five years, he will sever his connections with United Scientific Holdings, where he will be succeeded as chairman by Sir Frank Cooper, former Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence.

Pits strike could go on for years, says Willis

The coal strike could go on for years, Mr Norman Willis, general secretary of the TUC, said yesterday, as the National Union of Mineworkers took legal action to establish its authority over 30,000 dissident Nottinghamshire pitmen (our Industrial Editor writes).

His comments came at the end of a TUC general council meeting which expressed "grave dismay" at the refusal of Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, to use his offices to encourage negotiations.

Mr Willis gave a "very sombre" report and said that the government policy of

relying on a drift back to work presented a real danger.

The union's Nottinghamshire council meets today to approve rule changes that will exempt the area from a new disciplinary procedure and take away from the national executive the right to call strikes in the area.

In the High Court yesterday the union was given leave to proceed with its action against the Nottinghamshire rebels, but Mr Justice Warner refused to grant a temporary injunction stopping the rule changes.

In the past few days, a further £250,000 has been conveyed to the Miners' Solidarity Fund.

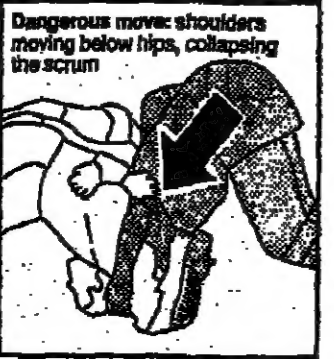
Rugby tries to make scrum a safer place

By Tim Glover

A disturbing increase in injuries in Rugby Union has prompted a move for revolutionary changes which, it is hoped, will make the game safer and more attractive at all levels. The Rugby Football Union, reacting to the findings of a working party on injuries, is recommending the elimination of the current scourges of the British game - pile-ups and collapsed scrums.

The RFU will approach the International Board, the game's ruling body, in Paris in March with moves to rewrite laws 19 and 20, which cover fundamental aspects of the sport, including scrums, mauls and rucks.

Any player wilfully lying on the ball will be penalized and



any bent-shouldered prop forward had better hang up his boots. The shoulders of forwards must not be lower than the hips. It is hoped that this will prevent a scrum collapsing, a dangerous practice which can lead to broken necks and spinal injuries.

The working party watched the Wasps v Richmond game this season in which there were 39 scrums, 19 of which collapsed. They have also discovered that of 63 players admitted to Stoke Mandeville Hospital in a 30-year period, 37 were forwards, 20 of them from the front row of the pack. Of the total, 16 were schoolboys and it was fatally to ally parental anxiety that the working party was formed two years ago.

John Kendall-Carpenter, a member of the working party and headmaster of Wellington School, Somerset, said: "Our appeal is diminishing." Mr Kendall-Carpenter, who is also a member of the International Board and a former England international, added: "That is

why we literally want to get our game back on its feet.

"He thinks that rugby in Britain has degenerated into a kind of Elton Wall Game with 'everyone heaving around in a dangerous heap.' The RFU's innovations have already been adopted at under-19 level, and the results, the working party told a press conference at the East India Club, have been impressive.

England now spends £100,000 a year in insurance cover for schoolboy rugby, but Ian Bear, the chairman of the working party, said: "We don't consider the game has become too dangerous although people's approach to it has become more competitive and aggressive.

Law changes, page 20

Queen accepts invitation to visit China in 1986

From Mary Lee, Peking

China's Prime Minister, Mr Zhao Ziyang, is to visit Britain next summer, and the Queen has accepted an invitation to visit China in 1986. Also, a high level British trade delegation led by Lord Young, Minister without Portfolio, will visit Peking next March.

These exchanges were revealed in talks between Mr Zhao and Mrs Margaret Thatcher, on the occasion of the signing of the Sino-British joint declaration on Hong Kong yesterday.

The signing, deemed historic by all its participants, went off without a hitch, with generous

praise from each side for the other. Mrs Thatcher had talks all day with Chinese leaders, starting with Mr Zhao, then the Communist Party General Secretary Mr Hu Yaobang and, finally, the man who made the entire day possible - Deng Xiaoping.

Much of the discussion concerned both government's determination to implement the joint declaration on Hong Kong, with all the Chinese leaders reiterating the point that China had a record of sticking to its international commitments, even during

years of internal turmoil during the Cultural Revolution.

Mr Deng himself went to some length to explain why China's policies on Hong Kong will remain unchanged for 50 years after 1997. "This policy," he told Mrs Thatcher "was put forward in the light of a particular situation in China. In order to become really developed, China still needs 50 years after 1997. "He reiterated that of stability and prosperity in Hong Kong was in the interest of China's four modernization programmes.

Mrs Thatcher pledged that

'True poet' Ted Hughes is Laureate

By Philip Howard Literary Editor

Ted Hughes has been appointed Poet Laureate to succeed Sir John Betjeman, which is a bit like appointing a grim young crow to replace a cuddly old teddy bear.

Hughes, aged 54, is not quite the youngest man ever to have been elevated to this official post: Tennyson was 41 when he became Laureate.

But Hughes is without doubt the most anti-establishment, black, and acerbic poet to have become a court official, with the expectation, if not the duty, that he will compose odes in celebration of royal birthdays and state occasions.

He is a true poet, which is more than can be said for some of his predecessors, and his

Oil fears push sterling to further low

The pound dropped 1.1 cents to a new low of \$1.1740 yesterday as selling pressure continued amid uncertainties over world oil prices. The sterling index, which measures the pound's average value, fell 0.3 to 73.3, also a record low (David Smith, Economics Correspondent, writes). Later in New York, the pound dropped to \$1.1700.

Trading on foreign exchanges has been light in the Christmas run-up, but dealers report that sentiment has moved sharply against the pound. The main factor has been a belief that oil ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, now meeting in Geneva, will

fail to stem the downward pressure on oil prices.

Oil prices on the spot market weakened further yesterday, the price of North Sea Brent crude oil falling 15 cents to \$26.85 a barrel, compared with an official price of \$28.65.

Dealers also attributed sterling's weakness to strong growth in money supply and high sector borrowing. It was also announced yesterday that average earnings rose by 8.2 per cent in the 12 months to October.

Elsewhere too the pound was generally weak, losing 1.8 pence to DM3.6395, and nearly six centimes to Ft11.455.

Kenneth Fleet, page 15

Star Wars fear raised by Kinnoch

By Anthony Bevins Political Correspondent

The American "Star Wars" project poses a greater threat to Nato than any external pressure from the Soviet Union, Mr Neil Kinnoch, the Labour leader, said after a three-hour meeting with Mr Mikhail Gorbachev in London yesterday.

"Mr Gorbachev understood the commitment we in the Labour Party have to Nato, and there was no aspiration by the Soviet Union to disturb the cohesion of the alliance." It was recognized that the alliance facilitated negotiation and gave a balance and equilibrium in Europe, Mr Kinnoch said.

Mr Gorbachev, who also met Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, and Dr David Owen, leader of the Social Democratic Party, as part of the day's round of engagements, told Mr Kinnoch there would be no Soviet preconditions on talks with the United States.

Mr Denis Healey, chief opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, explained: "What the Russians are really saying is that if the Americans decide to go ahead with the so-called Star Wars system, the Russians, instead of trying to copy them, may decide to adopt methods of penetrating whatever system the Americans produce, and that will obviously set limits to the possibility of negotiating cuts in offensive missiles."

The Labour leader raised specific cases of human rights with Mr Gorbachev and urged the restoration of arrangements for people to be able to leave the Soviet Union.

Mr Kinnoch said Mr Gorbachev had again taken a very stern line on the observance of Soviet law.

Photograph, page 2
United front, page 5



It's more than just the price that sets it apart.
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Ulster keeps 'supergrass' trials despite 35 acquittals

From Richard Ford, Belfast

The police in Northern Ireland will continue to use "supergrass" evidence despite the heavy setback suffered by the acquittal of 35 people in the Raymond Gilmour trial.

As the 26 people released after the collapse of the trial on Tuesday threatened to apply to the European Court of Human Rights for compensation, lawyers and the Royal Ulster Constabulary were preparing for tomorrow's judgement on the appeal by 14 "loyalists" convicted on the word of the Ulster Volunteer Force informer Joseph Bennett.

Several Unionist politicians argued yesterday that the decision by Northern Ireland's Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lowry, to reject the evidence of Gilmour vindicated the use of accomplice evidence.

Mr Enoch Powell, Official Unionist MP for Down South, said that it had been alleged that judges do not apply sufficiently strict rules to the credibility of informers. "What has happened in this trial shows not that the RUC were wrong to bring the prosecution, but that judges in fact, especially as they sit without a jury, are especially careful to ensure that the informer is credible."

But Mr Peter Barry, the Irish Republic's Minister for Foreign Affairs, said the trial called into question the whole system.

In Londonderry there was jubilation at the acquittals, but Provisional Sinn Féin, political wing of the Provisional IRA, said that it had been an attempt to show the impartiality of British justice and to bolster the strategy of using informers. Those released alleged that some of them would become victims of a "shoot to kill policy" which they claimed has been adopted by the security forces.

Since September 1983, when an alleged Provisional IRA informer, Robert Lean, retracted statements, the number of "supergrasses" has fallen.

But 143 people have been found guilty on accomplice evidence during the past four years and there are three "supergrass" trials pending.

Sir John Hermon, Chief Constable of the RUC, admitted that giving immunity was "distasteful" to many people but said: "The police have an inescapable duty, acting within the law, to bring terrorist suspects before the court on the best evidence available."

● Frogmen searched a border river yesterday for one of the Maze prison escapees, missing since a gun battle between SAS soldiers and a Provisional IRA gang at Kesh, Co Fermanagh nearly three weeks ago. Kieran Fleming, aged 24 is feared to have drowned in the Bannagh

Russians plan new embassy buildings

By Charles Kneivitt
Architecture Correspondent

The Soviet Embassy in London is planning to build a huge office, residential and cultural complex in Earl's Court, west London, and a new official residence in Kensington Palace Gardens.

The Earl's Court site, at 245, Warwick Road, has been under consideration for some time, as part of a reciprocal arrangement whereby the Russians find a new site for the British Embassy in Moscow.

● Members of the Soviet delegation visiting Britain laid a wreath at Karl Marx's tomb in Highgate cemetery yesterday. But Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the senior Politburo member, was not among them. Instead, Mr Leonid Zamyatin, Chief spokesman of the Soviet Central Committee, was the main dignitary.

● The advantage which the Soviet Union enjoys over Nato in front line aircraft in Europe is becoming increasingly critical, according to the 1984-85 edition of *Jane's All the World's Aircraft*, (Jane's Publishing Company, £60), published today.

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Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, greeting Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet Politburo member, on his arrival for talks at the House of Commons yesterday. Mr Gorbachev also saw the Liberal and Social Democratic Party leaders.

Derbyshire to sue Jenkin over curbs on spending

Derbyshire County Council yesterday decided to take legal proceedings in the High Court against Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, over his decision on the county's expenditure targets which could affect many services.

Even if the council was to budget at the Government's grant-related expenditure figure, it would suffer grant penalties of £42 million, councillors were told at the meeting in Matlock.

A joint report by the director and treasurer of the council said: "The council have taken legal advice from two leading counsel on whether Mr Jenkin acted within the law which required him, when issuing expenditure targets, to do so on the basis which applied to all authorities. Both counsel are of the view that Mr Jenkin may have acted unreasonably."

Mr David Bookbinder, leader of the Labour-controlled council, said that it was estimated that Derbyshire's rates would go up by one-third if the decision by Mr Jenkin was allowed to stand.

● Planned spending by the Inner London Education Authority which escaped government spending cuts in the

autumn was caught in a legal trap yesterday (Our Local Government Correspondent writes).

Most of the £750,000 allocated for campaigning against government policy will be frozen while the authority decides whether to appeal against a High Court judgement.

Mr Justice Glidewell found in favour of Westminster City Council, which had claimed that the money should not be spent. The judge ruled that authority members had taken into account "irrelevant considerations" in approving the spending.

● Liverpool City Council yesterday approved the closure of the Strawberry Field children's home, which inspired a Beatles song based on John Lennon's childhood memories.

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Robberies prevalent as crime figures rise

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Crime recorded by police rose sharply in the third quarter of this year. There was a 9 per cent increase compared with the same period of 1983.

The biggest increase, of 17 per cent, was in robbery, 6,100 offences, followed by criminal damage with a 15 per cent rise to 120,300 offences.

Other rises were burglary (13 per cent to 207,800 offences), theft and handling stolen goods (8 per cent to 453,000), fraud and forgery (2 per cent to 31,600). But violence against the person remained almost static with only a 0.6 per cent increase to 30,800.

These latest crime figures, reported in a Home Office

Strike-bound Ford still meets demand

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Ford of Britain, whose car output has been at a standstill for more than a month, claimed yesterday that it was meeting demand from stock and imports but that it has not increased deliveries from continental plants.

With no immediate end in sight of the strike by 270 machinists which has halted production of Orion, Escort, Sierra and Fiesta cars, the company was reluctant to comment in detail on how it planned to maintain supplies to dealers. But a spokesman said that this month the average 42 per cent import content of Ford's United Kingdom car sales was not being exceeded.

In the first 18 days of December, Ford's market share was down to less than 25 per cent compared with 27.9 per cent for the first 11 months of the year although the company said it had "reasonably healthy" stocks.

The absence of any increase in imports and Ford's apparent

Yorkshire's Operation Santa Claus

By Paul Vallance

The house at 301, Chapeltown Road, in Leeds, is the fulfilment of many a child's fantasies about Santa's toy factory.

It is a Victorian mansion whose rooms are full of stacked boxes of toys. Each door or wall carries a notice to indicate the type of presents the room contains: "ages 1-3", "Girls, aged 9-11" or "Boys, 12-13".

In every corner lie thousands of parcels, already in their Christmas paper. Sitting on the floor in the biggest room, before a small coal fire and under a glittering Christmas tree, one of Santa's helpers is steadily working his way through a pile of Brock the Badger figurines with rolls of tape and wrapping paper.

There are 55,000 miners on strike in the Yorkshire coalfield, the biggest in Britain. Organizing food for the families and toys for the children this Christmas is a huge task.

The National Union of Mineworkers has delegated the matter to individual branches, supervised by the four union panels which make up the Yorkshire coalfield.

But as Christmas approaches the Leeds miners' support group, Operation Food Force, which serves the northern panel, has turned its attention from food to gifts to help those pits which have not been "adopted" by an affluent local trade union or Labour Party group.

"So far we have raised more than £5,000. We have bought and wrapped so many presents we have lost count," Miss Janis Goodman said, without pausing from her jigsaw wrapping. "And even today, another 100 requests for toys have come in."

Funds have been raised from brass band concerts, collections at Rugby League matches and folk evenings, as well as a sponsored skydive by a striking miner who is a former member of The Parachute Regiment.

The result is that every miner's child in the Yorkshire coalfield will receive at least one present on Christmas Day. When individual collieries have been particularly enterprising they may have two or more.

Strike threat over coal trains

By Staff Reporters

Union leaders are threatening to take strike action over moves by British Rail to get coal trains moving again in the strike-bound Midlands area.

A meeting between the National Union of Railwaysmen and the train drivers' union Aslef is to be held after Christmas and is likely to call for selective strike action in protest at BR's successful attempts this week to move two trains using staff from the Coalville depot in Leicestershire.

An NUR official said last night: "We have to show BR that we are prepared to defend our members and take action in line with the executive's decision to block movements of coal."

No deep-mined coal has been moved by trains from Coalville since the start of the miners' strike 40 weeks ago, although coal from opencast sites has been carried. When BR tried similar tactics at the Shirebrook depot in Derbyshire, the unions threatened to call out on strike key signalmen which would have halted trains on the London to Scotland east coast route.

Union officials claim that the two rail workers used at Coalville this week were members of the breakaway Federation of Professional Railwaymen which was formed by

disaffected members of the NUR.

BR backed down in the face of the previous threat of action over the Shirebrook movements where the union had threatened to launch a campaign of guerrilla industrial action following the disruption caused by signalmen.

● Two hundred children of striking miners in the Durham coalfield will not receive the Christmas presents they expected at a party on Saturday after moves by government solicitors yesterday to block funds sent to strikers by students at the Polytechnic of North London.

The vicar of Christchurch, New Seaborn, the Rev Peter

Holland said he had been told by the Treasury Solicitor not to accept any further cheques from the students' union.

A cheque for £5,000 which he had banked last Friday had been stopped after a High Court injunction which restrained the executive of the students' union from allocating funds to any activity not directly related to student needs.

● Demand for coal in Britain by the year 2000 is likely to be at least 25 million tonnes less than forecast by the National Coal Board, according to the Henley Centre for Forecasting. Coal will provide only 30 per cent of energy requirements with demand hovering around 87 million tonnes a year, their report said yesterday.

Pits' holiday closures

The coal industry begins its holiday period on Christmas Eve. With regional variations, the holiday ends in the first days of January. Collieries can nominate which days they want to work.

In Scotland all pits will be shut on December 24 and 25. On December 26 all except two will be open for work. (Pits on strike are closed as open for work by the National Coal Board.)

On December 31 all pits in

Scotland will be on holiday and most collieries in Scotland will remain on holiday for the following week.

In the rest of the country all pits will be shut December 24 and 25 and most but not all will take holidays on December 26, 27 and 28. December 29 is a Saturday and therefore not a production day. On December 31 and January 1 all collieries will be shut and most will be open for work on January 2.



Young hopeful: Samantha Evans, aged three, with toys collected in Leeds for the children of striking miners in Yorkshire. (Photograph: Andrew Varley).

Jenkin's cash squeeze More homes fall into disrepair

By David Walker, Social Policy Correspondent

The number of houses and flats in England defined by surveyors to be in "serious disrepair" increased by 21 per cent to 1,049,000 in the 10 years from 1971 to 1981.

The impact of Tuesday's housing capital allocation on home improvement grants suggests that the figure will grow further by 1991. Throughout the country councils have begun to freeze their waiting lists for grants. Existing commitments will be honoured, but the amount of house renovation and improvement supported by public funds will decline sharply next year.

Little wonder, the cynics say, that Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, is planning to cancel the survey of house conditions planned for 1986 and has moved to disband the specialist unit in his department that has built up an impressive and worrying dossier on the state of the nation's housing.

The Institute of Housing estimates that the number of

home improvement grants made in 1983-84 could drop to 80,000 from this year's likely total of around 200,000. Many councils have already stopped accepting applications from home owners.

One council, Bristol, even tried to rescind commitments already entered into.

In most cases, home owners who have had their applications accepted will be allowed to get on with the work, but the outlook for intending improvers is bleak.

The efforts made earlier this year by Mr Jenkin to rein in council spending on housing had some effect on the volume of building: the number of new dwellings started by councils fell to a low of 1,800 in October. Extrapolating that figure, the total of new starts in 1985-86 could be about 30,000 for Great Britain.

A parallel fall is predicted in the volume of private housebuilding because of general economic conditions and rising house prices in desirable areas

Errors led to fatal gas blast

By Ronald Faux

A gas explosion which killed six people and destroyed an Aberdeen hotel - might have been prevented if Scottish gas had taken reasonable precautions, a fatal accident inquiry has found.

In his findings, published yesterday, on the explosion at the Royal Darroch Hotel at Cults on October 25, Sheriff Principal Stewart Bell said the explosion was triggered when an impulse pipe was broken in a gas room near by where Scottish Gas men were working.

The fracture led to medium-pressure gas bursting the Royal Darroch's low-pressure meters and then igniting.

Sheriff Bell added that the workmen should have been supervised and the explosion would probably have been prevented if meter governors had been fitted.

He criticised lack of liaison between the distribution and service departments of Scottish Gas.

Success story north of the border

East Kilbride was the first Scottish new town to be designated in 1947, and it is likely to be the first to be wound up, but not yet.

It is probably the most successful of the five new towns in Scotland: the others being Cumbernauld, Glenrothes, Irvine and Livingston, but all five are still developing and, in the words of Mr George Young, Secretary of State for Scotland, still have an "important and continuing role" to play in attracting investment projects to Scotland and contributing to the economy "while pursuing the task of creating fully developed and balanced communities."

Mr Younger announced recently that none of the new town corporations would begin winding up before 1990 and then only when they reached a trigger of a percentage of their designated populations. For East Kilbride, whose population now stands at 70,500, the trigger is 74,250: 90 per cent of its designated 82,500 population. It means the town will have a minimum of 10 years in which to complete its development, which includes plans for a further 7,000 jobs, a private housing area for 2,500 dwellings on its northern boundary, and a new leisure and shopping extension in the town centre.

Further investment totalling £276 million - £105 million

While in England new towns are moving steadily towards their demise, there is no such rush to wind up Scottish new towns. In the last article of the series CHRISTOPHER WARMAN, Property Correspondent, explains that they are proving a great success for the Scottish economy.

public and £171 million from the private sector - is planned during this period and Mr George Young, managing director of the corporation, believes they can achieve "in terms of jobs and houses the commitment of a sufficiently large number of second generation people to ensure the economic and social stability of the town."

East Kilbride, nine miles south of Glasgow and set up to ease Glasgow's post-war housing difficulties and help broaden the economy of the west of Scotland, was created around the villages of East Kilbride and Maxwelltown which had a combined population of 2,400. A generation later it is the sixth largest town or city in Scotland, and the fact that the second generation is now looking for jobs and houses has given it a new impetus.

It has also brought difficulties, for many of the houses built in the early years need substantial repairs. The new town corporation does wind up the housing stock is due to be transferred to the district council. The Labour-controlled

Given that record he believes the Secretary of State will ensure that as little difficulty is put in the way as possible. There is no decision yet as to the destination of the new towns' commercial and industrial assets when they are finally wound up.

With increasing emphasis on urban regeneration and less on development in the new towns, it might seem that East Kilbride's targets are ambitious, and it is certainly finding it more difficult to attract finance from the Government. The resulting improvements apparent in Glasgow, however, delight the corporation. "Since most people visiting us come through Glasgow, to see it run down has been a handicap for us. Therefore nothing could be better than a rejuvenated Glasgow to give further encouragement to visitors," Mr Young says.

So despite the rival claims of the cities, and despite increasing competition in attracting investment from the other new towns, East Kilbride is thriving. Last year it made a profit for the fifteenth year running. Not surprisingly therefore the Secretary of State has declared "the Scottish Development Corporation will continue to do a good job and enjoy the full support of this government."

Concluded

Solicitor cleared on appeal

A south coast solicitor, Mr Richard Smith, aged 49, who was fined £10,000 for an alleged conveyancing fraud, was cleared by three Appeal Court judges in London yesterday.

Mr Smith, of Cranewater Park, Southsea, Hampshire, was convicted at Winchester Crown Court in June last year of attempting to obtain a "deed of release" by deception.

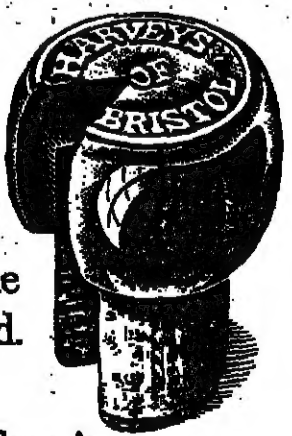
Lord Justice May, Mr Justice McCowan and Mr Justice Kennedy ruled that the jury's verdict was "unsafe and unsatisfactory." They held that the summing-up of the case by Mr Justice Mansfield had not been as balanced as it should have been.

Tory recovers

Mr Donald Maclean, president of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Association, who was injured in the Brighton bomb explosion in October, was released from the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, yesterday. His wife, Muriel, died last month of her injuries.

The Times overseas selling prices: Australia £6.25; Belgium £4.50; Canada £6.00; Denmark £5.50; France £5.00; Germany £5.50; Greece £5.00; Hong Kong £5.00; India £5.00; Italy £5.00; Japan £5.00; Korea £5.00; Malaysia £5.00; Mexico £5.00; New Zealand £5.00; Norway £5.00; Pakistan £5.00; Portugal £5.00; Singapore £5.00; South Africa £5.00; Spain £5.00; Sweden £5.00; Switzerland £5.00; Taiwan £5.00; Thailand £5.00; Turkey £5.00; USA £5.00; West Germany £5.00.

CHOOSING THE BEST MADEIRA IS A PIECE OF CAKE.



Stage 1: Choose the best wine merchants in your neighbourhood.

Stage 2: Approach the most knowledgeable-looking assistant therein.

Stage 3: Ask him for a bottle of his finest Bual Madeira, Malmsey Madeira, Verdelho Madeira or Sercial Madeira.

If he doesn't give you Harveys, the chances are you've got Stage 1 wrong.

UP 14.6% 1.50

Wife of peer choked to death from overdose of heroin after late parties

Lady Gormanston, wife of Lord Gormanston, premier viscount of Ireland, died from the effects of an overdose of heroin, an inquest at Westminster Coroner's Court, London, was told yesterday.

Lady Gormanston, aged 29, a mother of two, was found collapsed in the back of a friend's car early one day last month after two late-night parties, and died an hour later in the Westminster Hospital, London.

Dr Ian West, the pathologist, told Westminster Coroner's Court that traces of cocaine were found in the body, but his main finding was a "substantial dose" - a very high level of morphine - the residue of heroin which she had "probably snorted" a few hours before.

"She died from the effects of heroin which would have induced vomiting, and I give the cause of death aspiration of vomit due to opiate overdose," Dr Knapman, recording a verdict of non-dependent abuse of drugs, said. "One thing is conspicuous in its absence, of all the evidence, how did she come by the heroin and cocaine? No one is able to help us."

"This is another case of a death through heroin. The Lord Chief Justice himself has recently drawn attention to the dangers of cocaine and this is a melancholy description of what can happen."

Lord Gormanston, aged 45, told the court that he and his wife left their home at Delmy House, Thurloe Place, South Kensington, London, at 10pm on Saturday, November 17, and spent a few hours at a party hosted by Mr Alex Butler, a company director, at his house in Blenheim Crescent, Notting Hill, London.

After a few drinks the couple were driven to the home of Mr Brian Walsh, an antique dealer and an acquaintance of Lord Gormanston, in Fulham Road, west London.

Lord Gormanston was unable to say where his wife had obtained the drugs or when she had taken them. He put her malaise down to a combination of alcohol and tablets she had taken for an allergy.

Mr Walsh said in evidence that after drinking champagne and watching videos he fell asleep and in the early hours was woken by Lord Gormanston, who was concerned that he could not rouse his wife. "We carried her downstairs to the car, and we took her to the car," he said.

Asked if he knew when Lady Gormanston had taken cocaine and heroin, Mr Walsh said: "I have no idea. I saw nothing of that at the party."

Lord Gormanston, who does not drive, was directing him to the home in "Emury Mews", Belgrave, south-west London, of Mrs Gwendoline Puro, a close friend of Lady Gormanston, when police followed them because the vehicle was being driven erratically. The police called for assistance when Lord Gormanston identified himself and Lady Gormanston was found in a state of collapse.

Police Constable Douglas Tullock told the inquest that shortly after 7am on November 18 he noticed the car Mr Walsh was driving.

"He had not done anything wrong. It was just the manner of his driving. He seemed to be going very fast but seemed lost."

PC Tullock said that he stopped the car and after Lord Gormanston produced his security pass for the House of Lords he asked Mr Walsh, the driver, for identification. Mr Walsh could not produce anything to verify his ownership of the car and he searched the vehicle and found Lady Gormanston collapsed on the back seat.

When he said it looked as though Lady Gormanston had taken a drug overdose, Mr Walsh replied: "That's enough officer. There is no need for that. What's your number?"

Lord Gormanston had said: "It's all right - she's been like this before. She's taken some tablets for asthma and she's had a drink". He called for assistance, and Lady Gormanston was taken by ambulance to Westminster Hospital where she died at 8.10am.

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The inspiration of personal endurance and bravery



Faces of bravery: Princess Anne with the 10 recipients of "Children of Courage" awards and Mr Jim MacLean (Photograph: John Manning).

Princess presents awards to 'children of courage'

A cast of celebrities including the Two Ronnies, Ronnie Barker and Ronnie Corbett, Rod Hull and Emu, and Shakin' Stevens, were at yesterday's presentation of children of courage awards by Princess Anne in Westminster Abbey.

The presentation of the annual awards to ten children aged from two to 13 came after a carol service conducted by the Dean of Westminster. Awards went to:

Michael Ross, aged 13, who fought off three masked raiders at his village post office home in Moray, Scotland. He required hospital treatment for injuries after being clubbed with a wooden baton and punched as he fought to protect Mrs Ann Ross, his widowed mother, and grandmother aged 70.

"I just acted instinctively," he said yesterday. "I didn't stop to think."

Andrew Boosey aged 11 of Tytherton, Avon, who took control of a speeding car when his mother who was driving was knocked unconscious.

The mother was driving Andrew to a barber in Bristol when a building horse collided with the car Mrs Penelope Boosey collapsed and

Andrew had to climb over and try to bring the car to a halt when it veered across the road.

Kelly Smith, aged 11, of Bromley, Kent, saved her family from a fire at their home. She went downstairs to make a cup of tea for her mother and found the living room on fire.

She went to a neighbour to telephone the fire brigade and then took her brother and sister to their grandparents' house nearby.

Gary Paine, aged 3, of Cog Lane, Burnley, lost his legs after a gust of wind blew him into the path of a lorry.

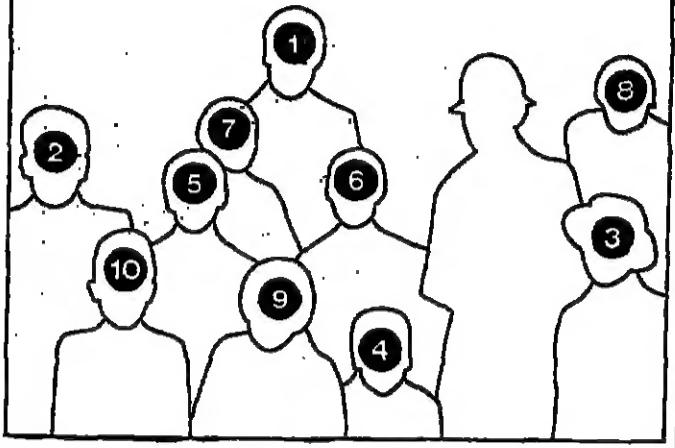
Within three months he was walking on his first pair of artificial legs. Since then, he has worn out two pairs - and his parents.

"There's just no stopping Gary," said his mother Lynn.

Dominic Jones, aged 12, of Port Talbot, West Glamorgan, rugby tackled an escaping man during a police chase, after a police officer had called for help.

He was carried along for a short while before being forced to let go but the man was arrested shortly afterwards.

Simon Wright, aged 9, of Selly Oak, Birmingham, saved his young



cousin Andrew from being savaged by an australian dog.

While the pair were playing the dog suddenly jumped on Andrew's back. Simon grabbed it by the collar and hauled it away, returning it to the owner, and then carried Andrew indoors.

Bradley Rudgely, aged 12, admitted he was terrified when he rescued his mother, grandmother, sister and her friend, both aged five, from their blazing car after an accident.

"I was very frightened, but I had to get them out so I just got on with it," said Bradley, of Sheering, Essex.

The car caught fire after a collision and his mother knocked unconscious. Bradley released her seat belt and helped her to safety, after helping the other passengers escape from the back of the car.

Emma Macflean, aged two, is recovering from a crippling disease after a bone marrow transplant from her sister Louise.

Louise Macflean, aged four, had to overcome her own fears about the operation which took place when Emma was aged nine months. "She was terrified," said her father Jim.

Emma faced only a few crippling years of life before the operation at the Westminster Children's Hospital, London.

Gary Doogan, aged six, saved his best friend Steven Hendry, aged five, from an icy pond on Putney Heath, south London.

Gary ignored his fear of water, grabbed his friend's collar and hauled him out. "It was easy," he said.

The British drink an average of four cups of tea each every day, about half their total consumption of non-alcoholic beverages. It is more than twice as popular as coffee, and four cups are drunk for every equivalent unit of soft drinks.

Two thirds of the tea sold is in bags. It accounts for 81 per cent of all beverages drunk first thing in the morning, 75 per cent at breakfast, 67 per cent at midday and 77 per cent in the afternoon.

Prices at auctions have doubled, largely because of rapidly increasing domestic demand in India, and retail prices have risen from about 54p to 56p a 125gram packet in the past eight months. But demand has remained stable at 168,000 tonnes this year.

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Christmas boom for microwave cookers

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

After the video recorder and home computer sales boom the latest is that of microwave cookers, whose sales this year are expected to be up by more than half.

A microwave cooker is this year's most fashionable present from husband to wife, according to sales patterns at one of the biggest department stores of the John Lewis Partnership.

At the John Lewis store at Brent Cross, north London, the managing director, Mr Nicholas Walderman Brown, said: "This is the microwave cooker Christmas as far as we are concerned."

"A lot of wives seem to want them because they can turn out meals so quickly. Last year the popular demand was for a home computer; the year before it was the video recorder."

Department stores account for an unusually large proportion of microwave sales, according to a survey by Market Assessment.

About 22 per cent of sales go through department stores, probably because the higher socio-economic groups have taken more readily to microwave cooking. Sales have also been greater in southern Britain than in the north.

Rumelows, the electrical retailing chain, also report microwave sales in the run-up to Christmas to be at least double those of last year. They may prove to have risen by 60 per cent during 1984, Mr Peter Jackson, Rumelows' marketing director, said.

In 1983 there was a 48 per cent increase in microwave sales and a further 58 per cent rise is forecast for this year in the Market Assessment survey. By the end of this year there are likely to be at least 2.3 million microwaves in use.

Japanese products dominate the market, but one cooker, expected soon to pass final acceptability tests, will be entirely British-made.

Market Assessment Product Group Report 46. (Market Assessment Publications, 22 Duncannon Terrace, London N15 8ZJ, £150).

HOW MICROWAVE SALES ARE GROWING

Year	Sales (£m)
1978	45,000
1979	65,000
1980	120,000
1981	245,000
1982	385,000
1983	570,000
1984	800,000
1985*	1,100,000
1986*	1,350,000
1987*	1,500,000
1988*	1,700,000

*Estimates **Forecast
Source: Market Assessment and Market Research

Peer's divorce

Lord Camden, aged 53, was granted a special procedure divorce yesterday on the ground that he and his wife have lived apart for more than two years.

Drug epidemic among privileged young

By Robin Young

Cocaine and heroin are widespread among the party-going sets of London's wealthiest districts. Many victims are young businessmen with public school backgrounds. Such people are reckoned to occupy at least a third of the beds at the Charter Clinic in Chelsea, where treatment for drug dependency costs £20 an hour.

In fashionable night clubs cocaine is sold every night at prices up to £100 for a gram, and heroin, with a street value of about £30,000 a pound, is reckoned by users to be a cheaper form of entertainment than going to the cinema or public house. As little as £10 worth can keep a user happy for 24 hours.

Heroin addiction has multiplied sixfold in Britain in the

past five years but Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, recently quoted an expert as saying that cocaine, often called the drug-user's champagne, was potentially the most lethal drug of the 1980s because many people do not realize how addictive it is.

Scotland Yard says that the latest fashion among the smart set for "speedballing" - mixing heroin and cocaine - is particularly dangerous.

Mild winter blamed for bean surplus

Mild winter weather was blamed by management at the Heinz baked beans factory at North Walsham, Norfolk, yesterday as the reason for its decision to put 200 workers on a three-day week in January and instruct them to take a Christmas break of two weeks instead of nine days.

A spokesman said: "People have not been buying so many beans and other such foods to keep them warm. We are overstocked because of the mild weather."

Gems haul by armed raiders

Jewellery and gemstones worth several hundred thousand pounds were stolen yesterday when an armed gang raided the offices of a manufacturing jeweller in New Bond Street, central London.

Staff at NDC Ltd opened a security door to a man with a claim to be a postman with a delivery. He then produced a handgun and two other raiders joined him.

Selfridge's win name ban

A south London trader who called his shop "Selfridges" because he sold "fridges" was banned from using the name by a High Court judge yesterday.

Mr John Moore, who trades at Clapham High Street, is being sued by the owners of Selfridge's store in Oxford Street, who claim that his shop's name is likely to cause confusion. Last month Mr Moore was banned by the High Court from calling his shop "Harrods" after a complaint from Harrods in Knightsbridge.

Silver stolen

Georgian silver cutlery worth £17,000 was stolen from the 1st Battalion, the Gloucestershire Regiment by two men who knocked a soldier unconscious when he disturbed them in the officers' mess at Lucknow Barracks, Tidworth Garrison, Wiltshire.

Joyride baby

Simone Redway, aged two, was driven away by a car thief in Birmingham yesterday after her father left her to buy a newspaper. She was found unharmed in the abandoned car.

Trophies theft

Kenny Dalgligh, the Scotland and Liverpool footballer, was robbed last night of his trophies from his club's record-breaking 1983-1984 season when thieves broke into his home in Birkdale, Southport.

Stalemate on remarriage

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

A substantial "hums-down" from the dioceses of the Church of England has left it with no policy at all, and little hope of one, on the remarriage of divorcees in church.

So far, 27 diocesan synods have rejected the most recent scheme for remarrying divorcees, with only 12 in favour. There are five decisions to come, of which at least two can be predicted with confidence as being against.

This leaves the Church of England with a complete stalemate. Authoritative sources say there is little prospect of another scheme being put forward, two having been rejected so far.

For some time to come, therefore, the decision on whether to marry divorced people in church will depend entirely on the attitude of the local vicar. Each clergyman has to ignore the church's policy, laid down nearly 50 years ago, that divorcees should not be allowed a church wedding. An

increasing number is expected to disregard that policy.

The stalemate arises from the repeated wish of the General Synod of the Church of England to find some way of authorizing the remarriage of divorcees, and the repeated disagreement of the diocesan synods, the clergy in particular, with this policy.

Twice now, a detailed scheme has received general synod approval, but been rejected at the diocesan level. Some clergy-men will undoubtedly take this as moral grounds for sanctioning remarriage in church. Some have said they were waiting for a final judgement before relaxing the rules, and will now feel there is no need to wait longer.

The House of Bishops of the general synod, who drew up the proposals now rejected by a majority of dioceses, will meet in January. Dr Montefiore is expected to urge it to persist, putting its scheme forward for final approval in the general synod in spite of the overwhelming evidence of its disapproval. The bishops are likely to prefer a period of

"pause for reflection", perhaps pointing to the current committee of inquiry into the relationship between the church's view of marriage, and the civil law.

The verdicts of diocesan synods which have voted so far (since an earlier list was given in *The Times* on November 2) are as follows (to be carried they must pass in each of the three houses):

Bath and Wells: Lost, defeated by laity, overall vote 77 to 75; Birmingham: Carried, overall vote 87 to 83; Blackburn: Carried, overall vote 73 to 53; Canterbury: Carried, overall vote 65 to 27; Chester: Lost, overall vote 36 to 91; Derby: Carried, overall vote 87 to 59; Durham: Lost, overall vote 35 to 98; Guildford: Lost, defeated by laity, overall vote 67 to 66; Liverpool: Carried, overall vote 69 to 23; Manchester: Carried, overall vote 66 to 57; Newcastle: Lost, overall vote 21 to 51; Ripon: Carried, overall vote 75 to 44; Sheffield: Lost, defeated by bishops, overall vote 72 to 45; Sodor and Man: Carried, overall vote 86 to 16; Worcester: Lost, overall vote 48 to 67; York: Lost, overall vote 66 to 92.

British Library's cuts warning

By David Hewson
Arts Correspondent

Senior officers of the British Library predicted yesterday that the Government's new arts budget will mean job losses, cuts in book conservation projects, and the export of precious books to foreign institutions.

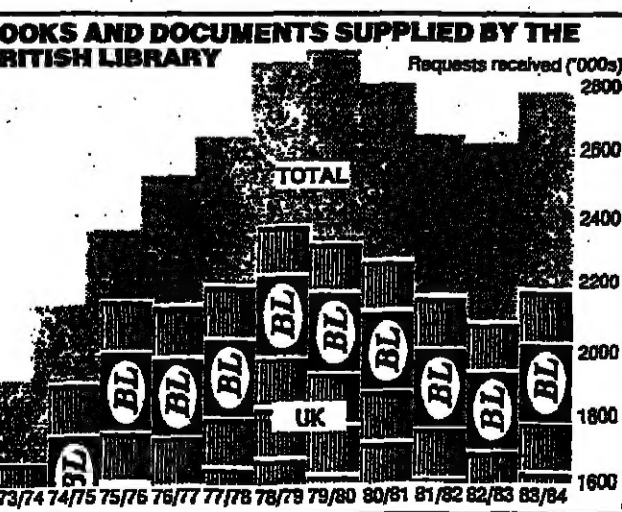
Sir Fred Dainton, the chairman, said the Library had effectively suffered a 15 per cent cut in grant in the past five years. It had asked the Office of Arts and Libraries for a 6.5 per cent increase but had been given only 3 per cent.

Sir Fred predicted that the Library, which is already planning to shed 50 jobs, will have to look for more staff reductions.

Mr Kenneth Cooper, chief executive, said: "With the best will in the world, there are going to be some real cuts in our ability to acquire material coming on to the market."

The fall of the pound against the dollar had cost the library £500,000, Mr Cooper said, and the added cost of North American academic publications, together with the imposition of VAT on publishing, which is thought to be under consideration by the Government, could cost a further £500,000.

The first victim of the cuts will be the scheme to help libraries conserve collections of national importance, which paid out £315,036 last year. Existing undertakings will be honoured.



Thatcher portrait blamed

By Our Arts Correspondent

The National Portrait Gallery yesterday blamed the popularity of a controversial portrait of Mrs Thatcher for part of its loss of government funds.

The painting by Rodrigo Moynihan, went on show at the gallery earlier this year, amid publicity about the fact that it appeared to give the Prime Minister something of a squint.

Public curiosity has swollen the gallery's attendances, and consequently the takings of its shop, with the result that Monday's arts budget reduced the body's operating grant by £87,000 it had proved so

successful in raising its own revenues.

A rueful gallery director, Dr John Hayes, yesterday predicted that the cut will mean the end of touring exhibitions.

"The publicity about the picture meant that lots of people came in to see it, and it is still on show and just as popular. We also had the twentieth century permanent collection open in February and that brought a lot of visitors in."

Airline plans £288 peak return to US

A new airline plans to begin cut price flights to New York from Gatwick, Prestwick and Belfast next May at peak season return fares of £288.

British Emerald Airways is an Ulster-based company formed last year by New York tours operator Mr Bill Best, and now chaired by Mr Bill Walker, the MP for Tayside North who is secretary of the Conservatives' aviation committee at Westminster.

Mr Best announced yesterday he was investing £17 million in a second-hand DC10, and his aircraft would be registered in Britain and have a British crew.

It is predicted that 70 per cent of the airline's traffic would originate in the USA.

A new super-ferry costing £40 million is to enter the North Sea service between Harwich and Hamburg within two years to cope with steadily expanding traffic between Britain and Germany. DFDS Seaways announced yesterday.

We can't take away the pain this child has been through. But with your help, we'll do our best to make sure it never happens to her again.

For the past hundred years, the NSPCC has been giving aid and comfort to abused children using your donations.

Her father bruised, burnt and broke her arm. Now we want to twist yours.

Last year, over 43,000 children relied on us for help. This year marks our centenary and there's no sign of a significant reduction in the number of children who need help.

Anything you can send will be used to provide help immediately, for example even if you send as little as £5.60 it would help us to protect a child for one week.

When you realise what your money will achieve, you'll find that having your arm twisted doesn't hurt at all.

Yes, I would like to help, and I enclose my cheque or postal order for £..... Access and Visa card holders may debit their accounts. No. BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

Signature.....
Name.....
Address.....
Postcode.....

Please send your donation to Dr A. Gilmore, NSPCC, Ref. 49091, 67 Saffron Hill, London EC1N 8RS. We've helped 9 million children in the last 100 years.

Government must stick to economic strategy

Peers want to carry on as they are

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Battling against an incessant barrage of interruptions, protests and shouts of disagreement, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, told the Commons that local authority receipts from the sale of houses, land and other assets would remain the property of the local authorities and they would be able to spend them in future years.

Defending his previous day's statement detailing new arrangements for curbing capital spending by local authorities, Mr Jenkin said they had to make sure that the pace at which the receipts were spent was compatible with the Government's spending plans which the Commons had already approved. The emergency debate went to the heart of the Government's economic strategy.

He said the Government had not cut the total of public expenditure for 1985-86. "We have kept on course," he said.

However, Dr John Cunningham, chief Opposition spokesman on the environment, declared that the Government's record on local government spending was one of broken promises, regular changes of mind, misleading statements and prevarication, all of which added up to incompetence.

Opening the debate, he said it would enable them to record views on the Government's abysmal management. There was a crisis in housing. The situation was rapidly deteriorating, affecting home owners, tenants of private landlords and local authorities. Recent studies pointed to the rising need for more public investment in housing.

Over one million people were in unfit and 400,000 lacked basic amenities. Over half-a-million needed repairs costing more than £7,000 per dwelling and 2½ million homes required repairs costing over £200.

A particular worry (he said) and it should be the worry of the whole House, is the increasing level of homelessness. The cost to the taxpayer to board and lodge accommodation payments and the increasing use of hostels and hotels to accommodate homeless families. Over 50,000 households will be accepted as homeless this Christmas, and many more will be refused help.

This year would see the lowest number of council house completions ever recorded. The housing starts of the best year of this Government were 214,000, while the lowest number of starts in private and public housing under the last Labour Government totalled 254,000.

His feelings were shared by everyone associated with the building and construction industry. Mr Jenkin, the Secretary of State for the Environment, told the Commons yesterday that nothing had changed. That can only be described (he continued) as an attempt to mislead the House.

In the current year £3,244 million had been allocated to local authorities, new towns and the housing corporation. The revised projection for next year was a reduction of £188 million on that figure. But the total cut in the money available to local authorities was well over £600 million, a real terms cut of about 20 per cent. This was why Mr Jenkin should not have been surprised about the reception he got from all over the House yesterday.

Educating public to buy shares

TRADE

Mr Jeremy Hanley (Richmond and Barnes, C) suggested changes in the Commons on the sale of British Telecom shares that the Government should run an education programme in conjunction with the Stock Exchange for the nearly two million people who had become shareholders for the first time.

He added that press reports indicated some of the new shareholders did not fully understand the nature of a stock exchange contract.

Mr Alexander Fletcher, Under Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, replied that he was tempted to ask Mr Hanley - who is a chartered accountant and senior lecturer in law - might have an interest in that sort of education programme.

The sale of shares in this way (he said) and on such a scale was an education programme in itself - not least for the Opposition.

Over two million people purchased BT shares including many

commitments given at the time had been abandoned, as had the commitment to owner-occupiers that they would get grants to improve their premises.

Apparently, following yesterday's statement, there was no longer a commitment to young people who could not afford to buy to be housed by councils. The commitment had been ditched by the Government.

Since he said that people should look to the private market could Mr Jenkin explain his department's press notice yesterday which said that building was decreasing in the private, as well as the public sector, under his policies? Did the Government not realize that the everyday experience for millions of people is appalling and inadequate housing was abysmal?

Did it recognize the long-term damage to people's health of bad housing conditions and that every child living in overcrowded accommodation, short of space, of peace and quiet, short of the ability properly to communicate, with child probably damaged for life?

Was there no feeling among ministers about all that? How incredibly stupid it was to allow the housing stock, urban infrastructure and the education provision of the country to deteriorate and to believe it was sound economics. To the question whether the Government recognized the effect of all that on the people, the answer could only be "No".

This crass and stupid administration was imposing appalling sacrifices on people through its policies. Conservative MPs should not shoot the messenger as they had yesterday. Now was a time to force a change if they wanted one.

If they are concerned about democracy, employment, about the building and construction industry, and above all concerned about people (he said) they will join us in the lobby.

The Government's plans for local authority capital spending remained exactly as provided in the Autumn Statement.

Mr Douglas Hogg (Grantham, C): The local authorities have in their possession capital receipts. They can spend these capital receipts on housing or whatever without borrowing more money and without new taxation. For the life of me, I cannot see the economic objection to that.

Mr Jenkin said that in the last two years local authorities in England and Wales had been spending a relatively small amount above the Government's cash limits for each year. In 1983-84, the overspend in England was £368 million. For the present year it could be £500 million even after the Government's request for restraint.

Councils were able to exceed that national cash limit because they were free to spend part of the receipts from house sales on housing and other assets on top of their allocations. Because of the undoubted success of the right to buy policy, the total amount of unsold capital receipts was now £3,000 million.

If councils were to spend as much of this as they were allowed under present rules there would be another large national overspend in 1985-86. It could amount to £1,000 million or even more. That would be a direct claim on the contingency reserve. It would add to the public sector borrowing requirement. (Loud and long interruptions)

What had changed was that the election had come and none and

national solution were not the answer.

Total capital investment in the economy, both public and private, was at its highest ever level - about £35 billion - and the Government expected that to be exceeded in 1985, reaching nearly £50 billion.

Because the Government had stuck to its economic strategy they were now getting this capital investment, if that was to be sustained in construction and elsewhere, they must continue to control public spending and borrowing to keep interest rates down and beat inflation and that was why the Government deserved support.

Mr William Clark (Croydon South, C) said the local council's £25,000 reserves were not all in cash. Much of it had been lent out to tenants to help them buy their council homes, and others.

Under the Housing Act 1980 councils were allowed to spend up to 50 per cent of the money they

received from the sale of houses and land. This was reduced to 20 per cent. It was incorrect to say this was a new Government policy.

All the Government are doing (he added) is saying the part at which council cash spending has to be restricted so that demands on the market, by the public sector, is contained within £25,000 million.

It is right for Mr Jenkin, and the Government are to be commended, that despite all the vested interests and the Opposition, they have stuck religiously to their economic strategy and we are enjoying the lowest rate of inflation we have had for many years.

Mr Enoch Powell (South Down OUP) said even if it took refuge in the argument that its policy was to reduce taxation, the Government was still destined for a defeat for the reason it had delivered on local government.

He and his OUP colleagues were returned to say to the House that their constituents demanded that there be restored to them the same Government they had elected. They were in the rest of the UK. It would be a contradiction if they did not use their voice and vote against the destruction of the democratic principle of the UK.

Mr Geoffrey Rippon (Hexham, C), former secretary of State for the Environment, said Mr Jenkin's statement had appeared irrational and was erratic in the context of the recent local government spending review. The House of Commons had to be able to plan public expenditure on a rational and long-term basis.

He would abstain tonight and leave open his attitude to the coming orders. That would depend on how far Mr Jenkin could give an

disgraceful that, by implication, we should be getting the Government's approval of trading with Libya.

Mr Charles Baker (Northampton, C) said the Government was training Libyan nationals in computer technology which is easily adapted for military purposes. That implied tacit approval of the Libyan regime.

Mr Gwynedd Iwan (North Wales, C) said the Government was trading with Libya. He was not sure if it was a trade or a loan. He was not sure if it was a trade or a loan. He was not sure if it was a trade or a loan.

Mr John Evans (St Eilian North, Lab) asked if Libyan leaders of industry wishing to trade with Britain had adequate access to the country.

Mr Channon said he had heard no complaints.

UK to press for progress on insurance

Four court cases are pending on the issue of a free market for insurance within the European Community and the Government is intervening in each of them, Mr Paul Channon, Minister for Trade, said during Commons questions.

The oral hearings in the first two cases had been set down for next March. Finance ministers discussed the proposed directive on freedom

to provide non-life insurance last week. Negotiations were continuing on the directive and on this and in general the Government would continue to press for rapid progress towards a free EEC market for insurance.

He was replying to Mr David Heath (Aberdeen, C), who had asked: When is the EEC going to give substance to its claim to be a common market? For instance, when is the European Court going to take effective action against countries which continue to block our insurance industry?

The British people really are getting tired of paying an expensive membership fee for the EEC.

Mr Bryan Gould, an Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, said the British people were not getting a meaningful answer. At a time when trade with the EEC on manufacturing is running at an annual deficit of £5,000 million, it is not surprising that we had no success for the British insurance industry to the common market and the other providers of financial services.

Has he not allowed the Germans and others who have been obstructive for a long time to get away with it for too long?

Mr Channon: I have given the best and most truthful answer I can. It is all very well to say I want limits to certain cases that take place. There is no way of imagining in these cases. Nothing will happen, until these court cases are settled.

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Caribbean bound: Sir John Mills and Lady Mills (playwright Mary Hayley Bell), at Heathrow airport yesterday on their way to spend Christmas in Antigua.

Snaps trap molester

Holiday snaps taken by a German tourist in London helped trap a child molester and bring a three-year reign of terror to an end, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

The tourist, a doctor, had suspicions about a man who approached his two young daughters in Hyde Park and spoke to them. He took several photographs and later sent them

Press Council rebuke for The Times

Although it maintained that a diary story about Larry Adler, the music world's most famous rate, *The Times* should have been prepared to publish a short letter setting the record straight from his point of view, the Press Council said today.

The council partly upheld a complaint by Mr Adler that having published a diary item containing factual inaccuracies the editor declined to correct them.

The item recalled that Mr Adler was driven out of the United States in 1949 after being blacklisted as a communist subversive. It added that the Americans, who attempted to strip him of his citizenship in 1956, refused to grant him concert fixtures when he returned because, according to an impresario: "Republican ladies have long memories."

On the day the item appeared, Mr Adler wrote to the writer that it was a nice piece but he had a few nigglies. He said his fellow American had not tried to take away his citizenship, which was almost impossible to do. The State Department wanted him to turn in his passport, so that he would be unable to travel outside the United States.

The decision to live in the United Kingdom was entirely his, he said. He said nobody

called him, in print or officially, either communist or subversive. He wrote again on similar lines next day.

Almost two months later Mr Adler's solicitors, B. M. Birnberg & Co., of Borough High Street, London Bridge, wrote to the editor asking for a correction.

Mr Anthony Whitaker, legal manager, said that the author, Miss Angela Gordon, had gone to the trouble before publication of clearing the salient points of what he was going to say about him.

Mr Whitaker said it was Mr Adler himself who told Miss Gordon that he had been "blacklisted as a Communist subversive." He quoted from an interview given by Mr Adler to Mr Tim Devlin in *The Times* of June 2, 1973, in which Mr Devlin wrote that one of Mr Adler's worst periods of depression was in 1949 when he was blacklisted out of Hollywood for un-American activities.

He also noted that in his own "One Man's Week" column in the *Sunday Times* in 1973, Mr Adler wrote that a recital was "our first New York concert since 1948, when our left-wing activities blacked us right out of showbiz."

Mr Whitaker said he was quite satisfied that the newspaper had not defamed Mr Adler and did not consider any corrections called for.

Mr Birnberg said that Mr Adler strongly denied that he told Miss Gordon he had been blacklisted as a Communist subversive or that he had used the words "driven out."

Mr Colin Webb, deputy editor, told the council he did not think the "niggles" mentioned in Mr Adler's first letter warranted correction, especially as Mr Adler was the source of the information.

The Press Council's adjudication was that there was apparently intended as a friendly paragraph in *The Times* Diary, about the month against Larry Adler, included four points which he said were inaccurate.

Mr Adler said he was not driven out of the United States as *The Times* recalled, but left voluntarily, choosing to stay in Britain; although he was blacklisted in the United States and the Americans did not attempt to strip him of his citizenship, they did not allow him to surrender his passport when he was confined with another man with a similar name. He contested a reference in the Diary to a refusal to grant him concert fixtures when he returned to the United States.

The Press Council does not doubt that the items were published in good faith. *The Times* has maintained their accuracy, relying on its interpretation of diary, its writer's account of his conversation with Mr Adler, and earlier published references to his career.

Nevertheless, it should have been prepared to publish a short letter setting the record straight from Mr Adler's point of view. To this extent the complaint against *The Times* is upheld.

Child drugs 'Inadequate'

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The Government's proposed limited list of National Health Service drugs is "seriously inadequate" for children, says the British Paediatric Association said yesterday.

"The list seems to have been drawn up without taking their needs into account," Dr Tim Chambers, the Association's secretary, said.

chamber and refuse to be used as a mere rubber stamp. The time had come for the House to reconsider its position in relation to the control and review of statutory instruments.

The Government was radically changing the convention on the type and quality of power which could be reserved for secondary legislation. The House must be equally prepared to change radically its convention to meet this new challenge.

Lord Dunsheath (Ind) said the lack of democracy in the House was an advantage. Coupled with the strength of the back benches and the Alliance, it meant that the Government was not so easily able to bulldoze as was the case with a three-line whip in the Commons. This was a tremendous value.

He supported the status quo of the House as it was with the combination of the vast experience and expertise of its peers and the stimulus of the young, lively minds of the hereditary peers. This provided a good balance. There was no incentive to speak unless the speaker had something to say.

Lord Shackleton (Lab) said they were all devoted to Viscount Whitelaw, Leader of the House, but he should do something about the extent to which peers were abusing their freedom. The situation was much worse than when there was only a small attendance. The House could only survive if it exercised self-discipline and did not allow questions to go on endlessly, many of them in an improper form.

The Earl of Halsbury (Ind) said discharging the hereditary element in their composition was not the most urgent task which was to reach agreement with the Commons on how both were to discharge their functions on co-operative elements in a partnership rather than as opponents on a battlefield. Such an agreement which is unobtainable in a hurry and they should carry on as they were for the time being.

Lord Cledwyn of Penrhyn, leader of the Opposition, said the House of Lords had an essential function to perform the experience of the last few years had brought that into focus. The House was not a country would be much poorer without the House. They had not exceeded their powers.

We should do our utmost (he continued) to make this House an effective working legislature with power to be a check on a Government which is unhelpful at this time out of touch with reality and the nation.

Viscount Whitelaw, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House, said he had been unwise to make his remarks about peers not pushing their views too far and too often, but he had hoped they would be picked up by colleagues in the Commons who had been criticising his behaviour.

Perhaps I expressed that in a moment of frustration (he said) and perhaps that was unwise. But in view of what has been done since I became Leader of the House, I do believe this House has a duty to make the Government think again. Since this Government came into power that has been done.

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US presents united Nato to counter Kremlin Star Wars propaganda

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The Reagan Administration is confident that the Soviet Union will not be able to drive a propaganda wedge between Washington and its European NATO allies on President Reagan's controversial "Star Wars" defence initiative.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher will brief Mr Reagan at Saturday's Camp David meeting on her talks in Britain with Mr Mikhail Gorbachev on the prospects for arms control, including space weapons.

Washington is determined

not to appear at odds with Britain or other NATO allies on the Star Wars programme. The Administration has repeatedly pointed out that the President's strategic defence initiative - the so-called Star Wars programme - is only a research project.

The United States is willing to discuss what the Soviet Union describes as the demilitarization of space in the Geneva talks next month between Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, and Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet

Foreign Minister. The talks will also cover intermediate-range and strategic nuclear missiles.

Mrs Thatcher, with other NATO leaders, has expressed general concern about preventing any militarization of space, a view shared by the Administration. A senior Reagan official told *The Times* that Washington was confident of allied support for the research programme.

The Administration maintains that the strategic defence initiative will not, contrary to Moscow's claim, violate the 1972 Soviet-US anti-ballistic missile treaty. Washington, however, is not willing to accept Moscow's call for a moratorium at the outset of the Geneva talks on the testing of anti-satellite weapons, although it is ready to discuss the issue in the negotiations proper.

Administration officials claim that Moscow's tactics are to divide the European allies from the US on the Star Wars issue and prevent further American testing of anti-satellite weapons early next year - weapons in which Moscow has a lead already.

Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, said this week that in his talks with Mrs Thatcher in London recently, she shared the feeling "that we don't want another



Pointing the way: Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, at a Pentagon press conference after winning an internal Cabinet battle over military spending

arms race or a continuation of the arms race."

Congress has already voted money for the strategic defence initiative research programme and the Pentagon this week named 10 industry teams to make the first studies of concepts for the Administration's \$30 billion (£25 billion) Star Wars space-based missile defence system.

Each was awarded a million

dollar contract to evaluate the performance and costs of existing and future technologies, such as lasers, to be used in the programme. The strategic defence initiative would be signed to protect US and NATO allies from Soviet missiles. The teams were asked to submit their results in about five months, when other contractors will be selected to do more detailed research.

Three months at the UN

More power to the West

From Zoriana Pysariwsky New York



GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 39th session of the United Nations General Assembly which opens on Tuesday is being seen as marking the return of Western influence to a body previously ruled by radical interests. Diplomats are hailing it as the most moderate session in recent memory where many headline arguments once taken as gospel have been rejected as esoteric and outdated.

This new moderation has permeated most of the 141 items debated over the three-month period and bears the mark of a determination by the United States to respond aggressively to anti-Western deeds and rhetoric in the organization.

It also coincides with the crisis of the world's crippling economy and a Third World awareness that it must look to the West for answers, not through confrontation but accommodation.

The decision by the Reagan Administration in 1983 to reduce aid to Zimbabwe partly because of its UN voting pattern has cast a long shadow over the assembly.

One highlight is the consensus declaration on the economic crisis in Africa which blended Western interests with African needs to produce a practical blueprint for change. Missing are the anti-West slogans, and much to the dismay of the Soviet Union, charges from the

Africans that their problems are the legacy of colonialism.

Ironically, at a time when the Reagan Administration is under domestic pressure to remove its investment from South Africa, the Assembly voted to remove references to Apartheid in its anti-apartheid resolutions.

The shifting fortunes of the Palestine Liberation Organization and the disappearance of even a semblance of Arab unity strengthened Israel's diplomatic position and brought it out of an international isolation imposed for more than a decade.

Radical Arab states lost ground on many of the key Middle East resolutions. In the Middle East debates the international community began moving away from viewing the antagonists of the region exclusively through an anti-Israel glass.

And in the decolonization committee, the US removed references to Israel on resolutions broadly dealing with

colonial situations and the Israelis defeated a credentials challenge by Iran.

At the start of the Assembly in September, Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, met his Soviet counterpart, Mr Andrei Gromyko, and set the groundwork for what most diplomats believe will be the start of an American-Soviet rapprochement in the New Year.

Mr Gromyko's proposals on a ban on space weapons and state terrorism fared poorly, however. The former was withdrawn for lack of support and the latter was amended.

The Soviet Union suffered its greatest defeat in the Assembly when 119 countries condemned its invasion of Afghanistan, demonstrating that censure of the occupation would not fade with time.

The Association of South East Asian countries increased its majority on a resolution condemning Vietnam's occupation of Cambodia.

Iran's tendency to play the iconoclast of the international community worked against it on an anti-Iraqi chemical weapons resolution which in normal circumstances would have been easily adopted.

A scarcely noticed resolution setting up a convention against torture was perhaps the assembly's most significant achievement. Unlike most resolutions which are simply normally binding. The treaty, when ratified, will become part of a state's legal code.

CBS man defends Vietnam programme

New York (NYT) - Mr George Crile, producer of a disputed CBS documentary on the Vietnam war, has described the calculation of enemy strength by General William C. Westmoreland's command in 1967 as "akin to an intelligence atrocity".

Mr Crile, testifying for the seventh day on Tuesday at General Westmoreland's \$120 million (about £100 million) libel suit against the network in the Federal Court in Manhattan, said the General's command had engaged in a "shell game" in its estimates of North Vietnamese and Vietcong troop strength in the months preceding the communists' Tet offensive of January 1968.

He said the command's low figures for the enemy misled American leaders and deprived them of the ability to reassess policies at a "critical juncture" of the war.

His eyes fixed on the jury, hands cupped and flapping in supporting gestures, the producer, aged 39, spent the afternoon cross-examined by Mr David Boies, the lawyer for CBS. Mr Crile had been called as a "hostile witness" by Mr Dan M. Burt, General Westmoreland's lawyer.

Using an August 1967 cable from General Westmoreland's headquarters to high-ranking military and civilian officials, Mr Burt attempted to show that Washington had not been kept in the dark about Saigon's decision to delete the Vietcong's self-defence forces from the

official listing of enemy strength.

Mr Crile conceded that the cable had been widely distributed, even perhaps to the White House, but insisted that it incorporated "fake and dishonest intelligence".

Under cross-examination Mr Crile was adamant that military leaders had provided a "distorted picture" of a "degraded" enemy who soon showed his real capabilities during the Tet offensive.

The offensive might not have been a military victory for the North Vietnamese and Vietcong forces, Mr Crile said, but it dealt a "devastating psychological" blow to the "aura of optimism" fostered by the Administration of President Johnson.

Mr Burt had accused Mr Crile of fabricating parts of that programme, *The Uncounted Enemy: A Vietnam Deception*, and on Tuesday Mr Boies asked Mr Crile: "Did you make up anything in connection with the broadcast?" Mr Crile replied: "Absolutely not."

General Westmoreland, now 70 years old and retired, commanded US forces in Vietnam from January 1964 to June 1968.

He contends that CBS defamed him by saying he had deceived President Johnson and the Joint Chiefs of Staff about the true size and nature of the enemy in late 1967.

The hearing went into a two-week holiday recess after a juror became ill.

40 arrests in Austrian dam protest

Vienna (Reuters) - Six policemen and 11 protesters were hurt yesterday when Austrian police cleared people blocking work on a dam that environmentalists say will destroy one of the last primeval forests in Europe.

Eight hundred policemen were ordered into the forest of Hainburg, on the Danube between Vienna and the Czechoslovak border, to move 1,500 environmentalists camping in freezing weather. Forty people were arrested.

Protesters say the hydroelectric project will destroy the forest, because the dam will greatly reduce flooding needed for the ecological system to survive.

Hundreds of protesters had flocked to the site to obstruct tree felling and demand the halting of construction pending a referendum.

Yesterday's injuries and arrests happened after protesters attempted to break through a police cordon.

Herr Günther Neunzig, a journalist and opponent of the dam, accused the police of brutality against people indulging in passive resistance. "I saw women and children being beaten."

Police denied the charges. They said they had used force only in self-defence.

● LINZ: An oil slick, believed to be from a barge, was moving along the Danube yesterday between Vienna and Linz.

Professor claims Bach music find

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

A Harvard professor of music says he has discovered 33 previously unknown compositions by Johann Sebastian Bach, composed between 1700 and about 1708 when Bach was in his late teens and early twenties.

Professor Christoph Wolff, chairman of Harvard's music department, said he found the works, which are all for organ, in the Yale University library. "The rather embarrassing and amusing thing is that it took someone from Harvard to show Yale what they have."

A bound manuscript containing the works has been the property of Yale since 1873. It has been kept in Yale's Beinecke rare book and manuscript library recently. The manuscript includes 83 works by various composers, including several other members of the Bach family Mr Wolff said.

Previously, it was known only that the manuscript contained organ music of the late 17th and 18th centuries.

Professor Wolff has been researching in the Yale library for several years.

He insisted that there could be no doubt about the authenticity of the works by J. S. Bach. He has played the newly discovered works on an organ. "The overall quality is remarkable."

Spanish hopes rise for EEC deal next month

From Ian Murray, Brussels

Señor Fernando Morán, the Spanish Foreign Minister, is hopeful that negotiations for his country to join the EEC can be successfully concluded next month.

His optimism came yesterday in Brussels after he reached agreement on three more areas needing to be settled. The most important of those to Britain covered the way to phase out Spain's high industrial tariffs on goods such as domestic appliances and cars.

At the moment British cars are virtually excluded from the Spanish market because a tax of more than 36 per cent is levied on them. Other items, such as refrigerators, have tax levels of more than 20 per cent.

Under the new agreement Spain will eliminate its import taxes progressively over seven years. In the first three years they will come down by just over half.

At the same time Spain is to allow a quota of 32,000 cars

in the year it joins at a rate of no more than 17.4 per cent. This quota will rise to 36,000 in the next year and to 40,000 in the third year, by which time the lower tariff levels will be in force.

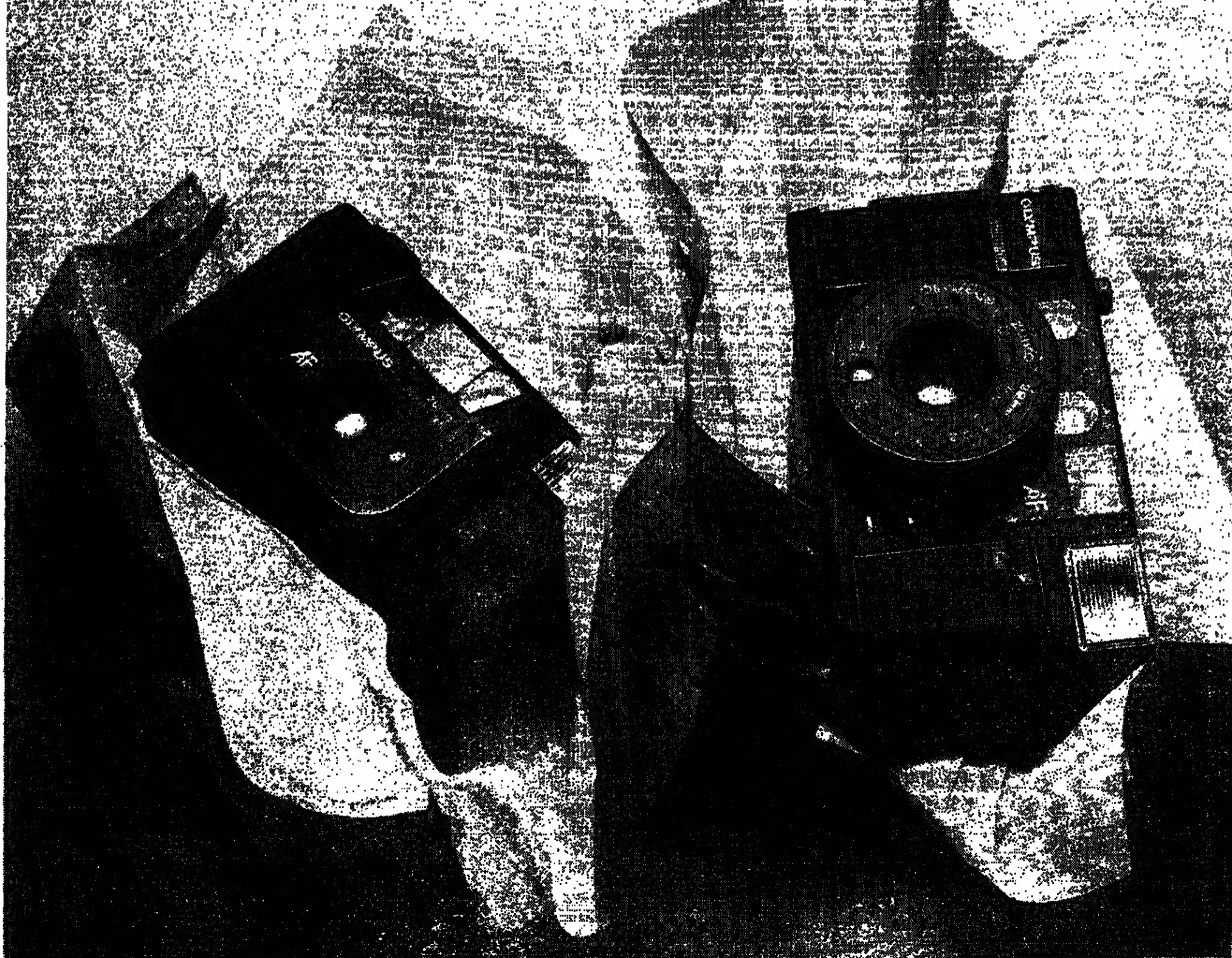
Britain and Italy have been told they will have 2,000 cars of the quota each reserved exclusively for them while the rest will be available to whoever can sell cars fastest.

The second agreement covered steel production. For the first three years after joining, the Community Spain will be allowed to sell no more than 837,500 tonnes a year to other member states, unless there is a surge in demand. That is slightly above its present export level to the EEC.

The third area agreed was on Spanish representation in the Community institutions. It is to have 60 Euro-MPs.

The most difficult negotiations, covering agriculture and fishing, are ahead.

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OLYMPUS

Weinberger deplores paper's disclosure of shuttle spy mission

From Christopher Thomas Washington

Mr Casper Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, yesterday deplored the *Washington Post* of "the height of journalistic irresponsibility" in revealing that the next space shuttle will carry a military spy satellite to be positioned over the Soviet Union.

It was well known that the shuttle, due for launch on January 23, would carry a secret payload. The Pentagon had reached agreement with news agencies, the television networks and the press to keep the details confidential.

Mr Ben Bradley, Editor-in-Chief of *The Washington Post*, said that he knew of no requests to the newspaper to keep the cargo of the shuttle a secret. Certainly, no request had been received by him. There was little difference between the paper's story and a report that had been broadcast by the Columbia Broadcasting System.

Mr Weinberger said the story could affect national security. Mr Bradley insisted: "That argument makes no sense at all."

The secrecy agreement was announced on Tuesday by Brigadier Richard Abel, Chief

of Public Affairs for the Air Force. "We intend to protect the identity, mission and all operational details of Department of Defence payloads," he said.

Over the next three years almost all US military space missions will be by space shuttle. Air Force officials said eight to ten military shuttle missions would be launched each year once the programme was fully under way.

The *New York Times*, which clearly knew the nature of the next shuttle mission, did not reveal details in yesterday's issue. A front page story began, somewhat tongue-in-cheek, "Defence Department officials, elaborating on a newly announced policy of secrecy surrounding the space shuttle when it carries military cargo, acknowledged today that little information would be kept from the Russians but said even that was worth the try."

The *Washington Post* said the new military intelligence satellite would collect electronic signals and transmit them to a US receiving station on Earth. The satellite would be positioned over the western portion of the Soviet Union.

It stated: "The \$300 million (£250 million) satellite would be the most important and largest of the so-called signals intelligence, or Sigint, satellites, four or five of which already hover above the Soviet Union." The paper quoted "informed sources".

Svetlana to make home in Georgia

From Richard Owen Tbilisi

Stalin's daughter Svetlana Alliluyeva, who has not been seen in Moscow for a month, is planning to live in the dictator's native republic of Georgia with her American-born daughter, Olga, informed sources here say.

There are also reports that Volynskiy, may revert to the name Stalingrad as part of a growing campaign to rehabilitate Stalin's memory.

Georgian officials, including Nina Ameridzibze, chief curator of the Stalin Museum at Gori, Stalin's Georgian birthplace, confirmed that Svetlana had flown from Moscow to Tbilisi last Sunday. She was taken to an official guest house in the Georgian capital.

Local officials said she had come to her father's homeland to "look around" and to inspect the school which Olga will attend in Tbilisi. Olga, aged 13, is Svetlana's child by her short marriage to an American architect, and speaks neither Russian nor Georgian.

Few of Stalin's relatives are still in Georgia, except for Vissarion, the grandson of Stalin's son, Yakov, who died in a German prisoner of war camp in 1943 after Stalin had refused to exchange him for General von Paulus, the defeated German commander at Stalingrad.

Vissarion studies at the Tbilisi Agricultural Academy, but is serving in the army. Svetlana caused a sensation by returning to the Soviet Union from England at the end of October after 17 years in the West, mostly in the United States. At a press conference on November 16 she claimed she had never felt free in the West for a single day.

Her return has coincided with a growing reassessment of Stalin in the period leading up to next May's celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of the "Victory over Fascism". The Stalin museum at Gori expects a large number of visitors tomorrow, the 105th anniversary of Stalin's birth. Miss Ameridzibze said she hoped Svetlana would attend the celebrations honouring her father. "I hope she will be here, I expect it," she said.

One million people have visited the Stalin museum so far this year, breaking all previous records. Mr Timur Stepanov, head of the Georgian news agency Gruzininform, said Stalin's memory was cherished in Gori, and the Soviet war generation still recalled those who had died in the fight against Hitler. But Georgians were less enthusiastic about Svetlana, who sought asylum in the West in 1967. "The prodigal daughter has not been forgiven," he said.

South African police seize ITN film

From Michael Horasby, Johannesburg

The South African security police yesterday raided the offices here of Independent Television News (ITN) and seized nearly three dozen video cassettes containing film shot in South Africa and other countries over a period of more than two years. The raid appears to be unprecedented.

Four policemen in plain clothes turned up at the office in a northern Johannesburg suburb with a search warrant signed by the local magistrate which said the cassettes could "afford evidence of the commission, or suspected commission, of an offence".

ITN's chief correspondent here, Mr Peter Sharp, is on holiday, and when the police arrived there was only a secretary in the office. She alerted Mr Keith Shaw, a freelance producer, who also works for ITN.

In a bizarre scene, ITN then filmed the police search of its own office. The police eventually took away 33 cassettes, for which Mr Shaw signed an inventory. The police told him the material would be returned tomorrow, presumably after it has been copied.

Most of the seized film concerns recent unrest in African townships, last August's elections to the new Indian and coloured (mixed race) chambers of Parliament and meetings of the United Democratic Front, a multiracial alliance of extra-parliamentary opposition groups.

Eight leading members of the UDF, five of whom took refuge in the British Consulate in Durban, were charged recently with treason, an

offence which is very broadly defined in South African law. It seems possible that the ITN film could be used to help to build up a case against them.

One of the films taken, however, was shot in December 1982 in Masera, the capital of Lesotho, at a funeral of members of the underground African National Congress killed in a raid on the town by South African commandos.

The search of the ITN office seems to fit in to a pattern of increasing police harassment of foreign television crews. ARD of West Germany and WDR had video footage confiscated last September after filming a funeral in Soweto.

The film has not been returned, and the West German Embassy in Pretoria was informed earlier this week by the South African Department of Foreign Affairs that it would be used as evidence.

A number of local journalists have been subpoenaed recently under section 205 of the Criminal Procedure Act to give information about their contacts with black political activists.

In a statement yesterday, the Foreign Correspondents Association of Southern Africa said: "Regardless of the legality of the police action, the raid breaks widely established conventions respecting material gathering by reporters in the normal course of their duties. Coercion of reporters and their material into the service of police investigations makes it more difficult for impartial journalists to work in South Africa, and diminishes press freedom."

EEC fish ministers in cold water

From Ian Murray Brussels

Unusually cold waters off Greenland posed a problem to EEC fisheries ministers when they met here yesterday to negotiate catch levels for next year.

Scientific advice showed that the cold had driven away large numbers of cod from the traditionally rich fishing banks. At the same time, the experts had discovered that North Sea herring had continued to increase, thanks to the tighter controls imposed under the policy. This allowed the European Commission to propose an increase in the herring catch there from the 155,000 tonnes allowed last year to 298,000 tonnes next year.

The main problem was posed by Greenland, which is meant to leave the Community at the turn of the year. Under the agreement covering its departure, it is allowed to fish more than scientific advice says is desirable. That means there would be nothing left for EEC countries.

Moscow chess draw again after 20 moves

Moscow (AP) - World chess champion Anatoly Karpov and Gary Kasparov played to a draw by repetition yesterday in the 34th game of their world title contest and tied the record for most games played in a chess championship. White, Kasparov; Black, Karpov.

1 P-Q4 P-Q4 2 P-Q4 P-Q4 3 P-Q4 P-Q4 4 P-Q4 P-Q4 5 P-Q4 P-Q4 6 P-Q4 P-Q4 7 P-Q4 P-Q4 8 P-Q4 P-Q4 9 P-Q4 P-Q4 10 P-Q4 P-Q4 11 P-Q4 P-Q4 12 P-Q4 P-Q4 13 P-Q4 P-Q4 14 P-Q4 P-Q4 15 P-Q4 P-Q4 16 P-Q4 P-Q4 17 P-Q4 P-Q4 18 P-Q4 P-Q4 19 P-Q4 P-Q4 20 P-Q4 P-Q4

Zia poll optimism challenged

From Hassan Akhtar Islamabad

President Zia of Pakistan is confident of a "positive response" in the referendum he is using to seek a mandate for another five years in office. He was speaking yesterday after casting his vote.

He claimed a huge turnout in the country's sparsely-populated northern areas, despite chilly weather, but unofficial reports from the rest of the country said the turnout was low.

Opponents of the Government, including the 11-party Movement for the Restoration of Democracy, boycotted the referendum, describing it as fraud.

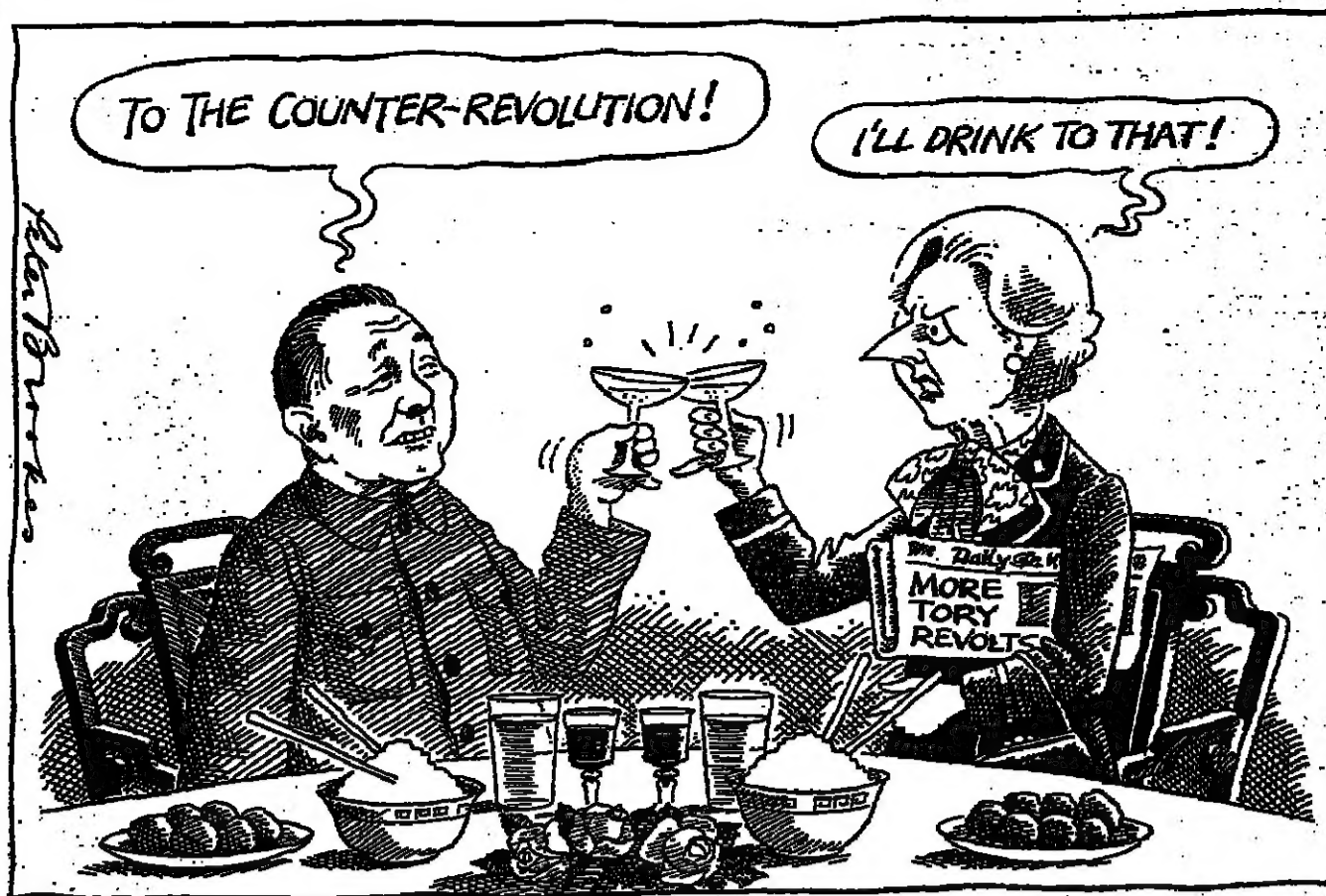
General Zia's next term is likely to begin when the new parliament meets, possibly in the middle of next year. General Zia has been at the helm since 1977 when he overthrew the Bhutto government after a controversial general election.

Official television and radio yesterday claimed a high turnout and reported demonstrations by pro-Zia electors. Interviews showed voters affirming their loyalty to the military ruler.

However, according to a Lahore report, police clashed with protesters near a central mosque when they raised anti-referendum and anti-Zia slogans.

General Zia brushed aside the suggestion that he might be considered another Third World military dictator. "I never worry who thinks what about me. I am very sincere and honest," he told the press.

He could not say whether he would give up his posts of army chief and Chief Martial Law Administrator if he got an unambiguous mandate in the referendum. The armed forces were his constituency and source of strength. He would think about the matter



\$73m for centre in Addis

From Zoriana Pysariwsky New York

On the day that the United Nations was discussing ways of filling the wide gap between contributions to alleviate the famine in Ethiopia and the country's soaring needs, the General Assembly voted to spend \$73.5 million (£52.3 million) to improve a conference centre in Addis Ababa.

One hundred and twenty-one countries voted in favour of the resolution to improve the facilities of the Centre for the Economic Commission for Africa, a regional economic advisory body, while Britain, the United States and the Benelux countries voted against the project. Sixteen other countries, which regarded the allocation of resources as wasteful, abstained for fear of offending African countries.

Señor Javier Perez de Cuellar, the Secretary-General, joined the countries opposed to the plan in an effort to point out to the Africans the incongruity of spending lavish sums on the

Famine area visits are defended

Addis Ababa (AP) - Dick Gregory, the American comedian who is on a fast in solidarity with Ethiopian famine victims, yesterday defended the influx of celebrity visitors to the drought-stricken country. "I don't think enough could come," he told the Associated Press on the second day of his fast.

"I think the world has put an aura around celebrities, and celebrities can bring certain issues to people's attention. When the issues deal with humanitarian causes, people really respond."

As he spoke, Senator Edward Kennedy, and his two children, were preparing to leave Addis Ababa on a four-day tour of emergency feeding centres. Other celebrities who have come to Ethiopia include the American actors Charlton Heston and Cliff Robertson.

project while much of Africa is in the throes of severe economic hardship.

Mr Richard Nygard, the American delegate, told the Assembly that the \$73.5 million for the new conference building was not just one more budget addition but represented a "perversion" of the ideals enunciated in the UN Charter.

"It was a cruel rebuff to the poor, the hungry and the down-trodden who have invested their hopes and dreams in the promise of international co-operation."

He asked how member states could take the UN seriously when an Assembly session, focusing on the economic crisis in Africa, made its largest commitment of financial resources for a conference centre.

Some critics of the project privately said that it was a symbol of the economic excesses of African governments where money that should be spent on basic necessities was allocated for showpiece projects.

Nearly five million African children have died during 1984 and another five million have been disabled by malnutrition and disease, according to a report by the United Nations Children's Fund published yesterday (Wed).

But Mr James Grant, Executive Director of Unicef, says that low cost treatments now available could save the lives of perhaps half of those who die each year in the world's poorest continent.

The most dramatic of the methods is oral rehydration therapy (ORT), which is estimated to have saved the lives of half a million children in the Third World during the past 12 months.

"Previously, dehydration could only be treated intravenously by medical personnel in

Sorrow in a Sudanese camp Left with no time to cry

From Robert Fisk Toklabbah Camp Kassala, Sudan

The Little Tigray Girl sat quite still in Stéphane Michon's arms, without the strength to wipe the filth from her eyes and mouth. She was four but she was so small, the skin hung from her tiny, bony arms and legs. There were sores all over her head and she said no need to Stéphane's words. Anyway, she had no name.

"I have to talk to someone else," Stéphane said, and the woman opposite began to beg for advice. Her baby was hungry, she explained. She had no food for it. Stéphane produced a thin packet of Oxfam biscuits - there were two wafers inside - and opened the cellophane cover. "Tell her that the biscuits are only for her baby," she told her interpreter, "not for her husband and her brothers". The woman vainly tried to push a piece of biscuit into her baby's mouth.

The little girl in Stéphane's arms seemed to be watching, but with such tiredness.

There were other women in Stéphane's queue all day, women with babies that needed injections, old women who might have been faking sickness, a mother who pushed

Millions receive emergency aid

Rome (AFP) - Emergency food aid worth more than \$20m (about £17m) will be provided to help three million victims of war or natural disaster in seven countries, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation said here yesterday.

The recipient countries are Burundi, Morocco, Chad, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Honduras and El Salvador. The World Food Programme will provide Morocco with 10,000 tonnes of cereals which will enable it to feed for 36 days about 694,500 people affected by drought.

seven pills into her baby's mouth and made it vomit until Stéphane explained that the pills had to be administered one by one. But the little girl with files on her eyes seemed somehow special.

"She eats a lot but does not grow so we think she must have tuberculosis", Stéphane said, and held the little girl's head to her shoulder. "She's an orphan and we have found no one to look after her. Each night, when we leave, we find someone and give her to them. But they do



Warming smile: A victim of famine being examined by a French doctor on the border between Tigré province and the Sudan. (Photograph: Brian Harris).

The year that Africa claimed the lives of five million children

By Our Foreign Staff

clinics. Now, it can be prevented orally by parents in the child's own home - using the mass-produced 10-cent sachets of prepackaged salts or the even cheaper home-made solutions of sugar, salt and water.

The report argues that oral rehydration treatment could save most of the more than four million children now thought to die from diarrhoeal dehydration. National ORT campaigns have been launched in over 20 countries, including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Tanzania, Egypt, Haiti and Brazil. Such dehydration kills almost 10 per cent of all children in Bangladesh.

If all the possible resources were mobilized, ORT could be made available to half the families in the world within the

nothing. This morning, we found her just sitting in the desert on her own."

The little girl moved her left hand slightly, as if exercising her fingers. A simple plastic tag on her spindly wrist named her "Number 508". She was, after all, only one of 35,000 famine victims who have dragged themselves over the Ethiopian border into Sudan.

Stéphane Michon, one of that small but brave group of doctors and nurses from the French *Médecins Sans Frontières* organisation who go to Afghanistan or Uganda or the Ogaden with less ceremony but often more courage than the big refugee organisations that trumpet their goodwill. Stéphane has been to Uganda and Somalia - which she found worse than Toklabbah - and to Rwanda and Thailand.

But in Sudan, her supplies are so low that she is giving pills rather than medicine to the sick. The last 25 boxes of biscuits were due to run out in four days - some refugees had been trying to steal them - and while she had plenty of milk, it was always mixed with oil to provide more energy. Milk with oil needs sugar - and the sugar was almost finished.

Other, less immediate, medical deficiencies were affecting the little girl in Stéphane's arms, however. For although she had TB, *Médecins Sans Frontières* cannot administer treatment. This requires a settled home and location which, of course, the little girl numbered 508 did not have.

Stéphane wanted to send her to a settlement at Fao where she could receive attention. But in the meantime, who among the hungry, broken people at Toklabbah would want to look after an orphan with TB?

What would happen to the little girl in Stéphane's arms? She hugged the child again and said, half-smiling: "She will die. I think I have her with me as much as possible to make these days happy for her."

The little girl stretched out her arm, slowly, towards my pen. Stéphane took the pen and held my notebook in front of the child. "Hullo", she wrote on it and showed it to the little girl who looked at the meaningless foreign greeting. Then the girl took the pen and with great concentration through her fly-covered eyes, she drew two lines on the notepad and held the pen out for me.

The little girl had been brought to the Sudan by an unknown boy. If she must leave it so sadly, she would at least do so with Stéphane as her friend.

"I've had three of these children die here", she said. "But I have to accept it. The people here do. They cry for five minutes and then say 'Mallah' and that Allah wanted it."

But how would Stéphane feel if the little girl died? She looked at the child with its covering of flies. Then she waved her right arm through the air. "I shall say 'next one', she replied. "They come to me too late sometimes. We have no time to cry. There will be other children in the queue. So I shall say 'next one!'."

Guinea reshuffle in drive on state corruption

From Susan MacDonald Dakar

President Lansana Conté of Guinea said yesterday that state corruption had forced him to take over the job of Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, in addition to being head of state. He also announced a reshuffle in which nine people left the Government and five joined.

The former Prime Minister, Colonel Diarra Traoré, remains in the Cabinet as Minister of Education. It was he and not President Conté who had appeared the more public figure after the military coup in Guinea last April which followed the death of President Sekou Touré.

President Conté gave a warning that the changes were only a beginning and other public figures would be eliminated if they did not put the interests of the state first.

Peru and Malta criticized by jurists

Ginebra (AP) - The human rights situation in Peru has become "extremely serious" and is deteriorating in Malta according to a survey by the International Commission of Jurists.

In Peru "the escalation of violence, the militarization of society... combines with violations of human rights represent a serious and specific threat to democracy," the commission's quarterly review says.

It also criticizes "the tacit tolerance if not provocation of mob violence against the courts, the church and the press," in Malta.

Operation Faith nearly finished

Delhi - stock of poisonous gas at the Union Carbide plant at Bhopal has turned out to be larger than experts had estimated. One more tonne was neutralized yesterday in what is known as "Operation Faith" and the process is expected to be completed today (Kuldip Nayyar writes).

Thousands of people who fled from Bhopal five days ago before the neutralization began, are returning in an endless stream of buses, lorries and carts. An atmosphere of relief has replaced the panic prevalent a few days ago.

Hostages 'alive' in Zimbabwe

Harare - A ransom note claims that six foreign tourists kidnapped by Zimbabwe guerrillas in July 1982 are still alive and will be released if a list of demands is met (Jan Rash writes).

The six are Mr James Greenwell, aged 21 from Liverpool, and Mr Martin Hodgson, aged 33, from Peterborough; two Australians, Mr Tony Barzile, aged 27, and Mr William Butler, aged 33; and two Americans, Mr Brett Baldwin, aged 25, and Mr Kevin Ellis, aged 26.

Lebanon duels

Beirut (AP) - Artillery and rocket exchanges between Christian and Druze militiamen and the Lebanese Army broke out again in the central mountains as efforts continued to salvage a government plan to reopen the coastal highway to the Israeli-occupied south.

Air strike

Wellington (Reuters) - Christmas air traffic to and from New Zealand was threatened by a strike of Air New Zealand's international flight cabin crews over the introduction of computerized rostering. The cancellation of flights to Brisbane, Los Angeles and London stranded 1,200 passengers.

Arson arrests

Noumea (AFP) - French authorities in New Caledonia are holding six Melanesians suspects after one person died and six were hurt in a store blaze on Sunday. The arrests followed the departure of the French special envoy, M Edgard Pisani, by special plane for Paris, where he will report to President Mitterrand.

Chile blasts

Santiago (Reuters) - Bomb attacks in Santiago and the southern Chilean city of Rancagua injured 18 people. The Government said a left-wing group, the Manuel Rodríguez Patriotic Front, had telephoned a warning before the Rancagua blast.

Guerrilla bomb

Oberammergau (Reuters) - Guerrillas of the left-wing Red Army Faction planted a bomb which was defused outside a Nato school here yesterday, police said. It was apparently linked with a prison hunger strike by about 35 convicted or suspected members.

Big chill

Moscow (Reuters) - Soviet Central Asia (which is accustomed to desert heat) is reporting the coldest winter on record. Temperatures in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, have plunged to -35C (-31F). The north-eastern Siberian cities of "Verkhoyansk" and Oymyakon have recorded -56C (-69F) already.

Deep sleep

Frankfurt (AP) - When a motorist was found asleep at the wheel of his car in a Frankfurt underground railway tunnel, he told police he had nodded off while driving to work after a night of pre-holiday drinking. Trains were diverted for two hours during the morning rush hour.

Soap opera

Tokyo (AP) - Tokyo massage parlours generally known as *Foroku* or Turkish baths, are to change their name after complaints from Turkish residents. There was even one which called itself the Turkish Embassy, until the real embassy complained that it was receiving telephone calls intended for the massage parlour. From January 1, they will be known as "soapslands" a name chosen in a public competition.



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Peru and
Malta
criticized
by jurists

Rejection of Fabius TV debate offer highlights French divide

From Diana Geddes
Paris

The seemingly unbridgeable gulf separating the Right from the Left in French politics has again been highlighted by the refusal of M Raymond Barre, and M Jacques Chirac, two of the main opposition leaders, to accept the unusual invitation by M Laurent Fabius, the Prime Minister, to a face-to-face debate on television. Such challenges normally come from the Opposition to the Government rather than vice versa.

M Barre and M Chirac were clearly taken off guard by the offer, and took more than 24 hours to concoct their less than convincing reply. After mutual consultation, both said while they would be prepared to engage in such a debate at the time of the parliamentary elections in 1986, now was not the time.

"In the present circumstances, France has no need of spectacles, whether televised or not, but of a coherent firm and continuous government action," M Barre said, adding: "I do not see the real interest in a debate such as that proposed by M Fabius, save to distract people's attention from the real problems confronting the country."



M Chirac: Off guard.

M Barre: Lame reply.

and from the Government's impotence."

In M Chirac's view, there was no sense in engaging in a debate with any of the Socialist Party leaders at the present time because it would "simply provide the party with another opportunity to abuse the right to speak on the national television channels, which the Opposition had been refused."

M Chirac was referring to an incident last October when M Fabius was offered a monthly quarter-of-an-hour slot on television to explain the Government's policies. An indignant Opposition immediately demanded, and was granted, a quarter-of-an-hour "right of reply," but in the end turned it down, denouncing the Government's political exploitation of the news media.

Soon after being appointed Prime Minister last July, M Fabius announced that it would be his aim to seek a political "declassification" and "Rassemblement". To that end, he invited two opposition MPs to help him with a government inquiry into two areas where he believed political consensus was both possible and desirable: law and order, and the needs of the elderly.

The offer was rejected out of hand, however, and all M Fabius's other apparently friendly overtures have been met with a similar rebuff. "In a democracy," M Chirac explained, "the government's role is to assume its responsibilities; it is not the opposition's role to facilitate its task."

In France, where the political complexion of governments change relatively rarely, there is not the same tradition of political give and take as in Britain. While sessions in the National Assembly are normally much less stormy than in Westminster, it is rare to find deputies of opposing parties exchanging a friendly word in the corridors or meeting for a quiet drink in the bar after a debate. Each camp remains firmly entrenched.

Politics are a serious and often bitter business in France. A society which will take great care not to invite Socialists and Gaullists to the same dinner party for fear of an ugly explosion. To put up a poster in your front window during an election campaign declaring that you are for a certain political party is to invite a brick to be thrown through it.

A striking characteristic of recent local by-elections has been the very high abstention rate of something more than 65 per cent, which is most unusual in France. At a time of supposedly increasing polarization, it is interesting to note the results of a poll last month asking people what government they would like after the next parliamentary elections: 27 per cent opted for a government of national unity, which made it the equal favourite choice of government along with one consisting of the two main opposition parties.

Disunity of left grows over budget vote

From Our Correspondent, Paris

The wide split between French Socialists and Communists, partners in government until July, turned into a canyon-like breach when Communist Deputies voted against their former allies at the end of the 1985 budget debate early yesterday.

The Socialists, who have an absolute majority in the Assembly, were the victors.

It was the first time since the left's election victory of 1981 that the Communists had taken this parliamentary step. Since their departure from government over the Socialist's austerity programme, they have engaged in a violent war of words and abstentions.

Their vote yesterday against the 1,000 billion franc (\$289 billion) budget was not a

surprise, as their 44-member group had been seeking a wide range of amendments to tax concessions that favour companies and landlords.

M André Lajoinie, the Communist Parliamentary leader, said there were 10,000 "millionaires" in France to be taxed and called for a doubling of taxes on large fortunes.

Communist leaders yesterday denied that their party was officially in opposition, but a former Communist minister, M Charles Fiterman, said: "Socialism has never been installed in France."

Le Monde candidate drops out

From Our Correspondent, Paris

The withdrawal of a front-runner for the job of editor and managing director of the financially shaky *Le Monde*, added to the confusion over the paper's future when the 200 journalists met yesterday to consider their choice for the post, which combines editorial and managerial responsibilities.

Shortly before the meeting, which promised to be long and stormy, the paper's leading foreign affairs specialist, M André Fontaine, withdrew from the race to succeed M André Laurens, who resigned a fortnight ago.

M Laurens had sought to sell the paper's headquarters on a lease-basis, to cut salaries and disburse with one of the two printing presses in an effort to stem losses, which have amounted to £7 million in recent years. These have resulted from a 70,000-copy drop in circulation to 360,000 each evening, due to the paper's sombre image, and failure to distance itself from the Socialist government.

M Laurens also refused to accept the appointment of a co-director in charge of finance. M Fontaine had picked M Philippe Ramond, a former television executive. M Ramond came to the conclusion that the situation at *Le Monde* lacked the necessary "elan" and unity to encourage investors.

To be appointed editor, a candidate needs a 60 per cent vote by shareholders. The journalists hold 40 per cent of the shares. Some still support M Laurens, who has repeated that the building must be sold.

Today all the shareholders, journalists and non-journalists, will hold a mass meeting designed to pick an editor.

Santa on wheels: Members of the Longriders Motor-cycle Club of Western Massachusetts escorting a lorry full of toys to US Marine Corps reserves for distribution to needy families.

Lee admits risk in son's Singapore political debut

From Stephen Taylor, Singapore

Mr Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore's Prime Minister, admitted yesterday that the entry of his son into politics was a gamble for both of them.

At a rally of his People's Action Party in the run-up to Saturday's general election, he said that if his son, Brigadier Lee Hsien Loong, failed to come up to expectations "he's in for a nasty time - and I'm in for a ruinous time".

Nevertheless, Mr Lee said, his son was among six of 26 candidates introduced by the party who were capable of being much more than MPs. His comments yesterday struck a rare personal note in a campaign which he has said will be his last before retiring - perhaps to stand as elected

President with duties yet to be defined by Parliament. Brigadier Lee, aged 32, retired as Deputy Commander of the Defence Forces, earlier this year to enter politics, giving rise to suggestions that his father is trying to start a dynasty. A prominent figure during the campaign, the brigadier's personal appeal has made an impression on an electorate dulled by virtual one-party rule.

Voters have been taking an unusual interest in the rallies of opposition candidates, with those of Mr Ben Jeyaretnam's Workers' Party and the Singapore Democratic Party of Mr Chiam See Tong being particularly well attended.

Whatever the perishable novelties in the shop window, Paris theatre does most of its business with safe old brand names. Consult the listings, and there they all are again: the same charmed circle of favoured authors and indestructible stars. Madeleine Renaud still giving her *Happy Days* at the Rond-Point; Edwige Fenech supposedly bidding her public farewell in Anouilh's *Leocadia* at the Champs-Élysées; Jean Meyer - whom I first saw in Feydeau's *Le Dindon* in the 1950s - directing that same farce at the Palais-Royal.

Meyer, thirty years ago, was playing with the Comédie-Française and, as you comb through the Right Bank shows, it does seem as if the Comédie trains up its sociétaires to go out and colonize the commercial hinterland. The Variétés, for instance, is presenting *Les Temps difficiles*, an interesting piece by Edouard Bourdet, a pre-war administrator of the Comédie, directed by Pierre Dux, who lately held the same job and who has just made his comeback in Beckett's *Compagnie* at the Rond-Point. As for the sacred repertory, there is no escaping it, even for arch-rebels like Jérôme Savary, who now combines the direction of a *théâtre populaire* in Montpellier with running seasons at the Mogador. Here the old Savary is still visible in a children's show, *The Pig who went on a diet to marry a Pigess* (not to mention a forthcoming return of the Grand Magic Circus); but what is really pulling the crowds into the Mogador is Savary's production of *Cyrano de Bergerac*.

To verify the feeling that nothing changes in Paris, I made a nostalgic return to the 60-seat Théâtre de la Huchette - home of the Ionesco double bill that has been playing there since 1957. I was wrong. Not that the two productions have altered a scrap, but their director, Nicholas Bataille, has at last added a third. You sit through the embalmed routines of *La Cantatrice chauve* and *La Leçon*; and then - in *Offenbach, tu connais?* - you see the company wearily assembling in a cramped dressing room to prepare for yet another performance of the show they have been doing for the past 28 years. Anything rather than that. What about an escape into opera? And, with the aid of mops, make-up towels, dustbin lids and a moody rehearsal pianist, they take off into *La Périochole* and *La Belle Hélène*, culminating with a spirited gallop executed in the sitting position. Ionesco it is not; but by that stage of the evening you are as grateful as the cast for a bit of poverty-theatre glamour.

A glance through the boulevard listings does not stir much interest in the up-market alternatives. One address offers a comedy about France's first woman President whose husband promptly defects from the Elysée; another the sad story of an anorexic in a family of big eaters. You are hardly spoilt for choice when it comes to new writing; and the only novelty I decided to risk was a piece that first appeared in 1934.

Billed as "un *Dallas* bien français", *Les Temps difficiles* completes the cycle of bourgeois satires that Bourdet wrote during the Depression: a time when France experienced a deluge of industrial disasters, political scandals and governmental crises.

long-term addict now going back on the needle.

Social preliminaries out of the way, the three junkies settle in for an unobstructed slide down to degradation and death.

Kissing God is a serious examination of a desperately urgent social malady. But so were the Victorian temperance dramas with which, it has to be said, this play has things in common: such as the coincidental reunion of Mark and Harry (who first got him hooked) and the parlour song-book appeals on behalf of Amy's unborn child.

A dramatic subject, drug-addiction has the added disadvantage of eroding character. Here are three people of variously interesting temperament, all gradually levelled to the condition where everything they say or do is focused on the banal imperative of getting the next fix.

Amy's friend Babbi also has a male companion, Harry, whom she takes back to the room in hopes of more than companionship. But, apart from giggling over their joint experiences as volunteer nursery workers, Harry is as impenetrably secretive as a clam, until Amy crashes in, bleeding from a bungled self-injection; whereupon Harry too emerges as a



Eclipsing all since Richardson: Jacques Weber's open-hearted sincerity as Cyrano, with the spirited Nicole Jamet

Bourdet reflects this sense of impending collapse in the story of a wealthy family poised on the edge of ruin, and ready to use any means to defend itself. Jérôme, the head of an endangered company, first patches things up with his alienated brother, Marcel, to dissuade him from selling his shares. Marcel's daughter then catches the eye of one of Jérôme's visitors - a brain-damaged industrial heir - and a marriage is swiftly arranged to repair the family fortunes. But no sooner has Bob, the idiot bridegroom, reduced his wife to a state of sleepless misery than it emerges that his millions, too, have vanished in gambling debts; and the two clans are left facing financial bankruptcy.

The interesting point is that Bourdet emerges as a thoroughly bourgeois writer, whose criticism is exclusively reserved for those who fail to uphold the correct bourgeois values. Three codes of manners are involved: those of Jérôme, who runs his family and his business as a regal autocrat; those of Bob and his mother, who fatally neglects her business responsibilities for the enjoyment of money; and those of Marcel, who lives a quasi-artistic life supported on unearned income. The artistry of the piece consists of deploying the three groups so that each exposes the weaknesses of the others. Marcel, for instance, is superficially the most attractive of the principals; but, in spite of his vaunted belief in love and happiness, he caves in and allows his daughter to be sacrificed for money.

Jérôme, conversely, may appear a ruthless egoist; but he is also an honest man who lays out the reasons for the marriage deal without the smallest deception. As for Bob's millionaire mother, first seen as an idle précieuse, she finally stands her ground and meets Jérôme's bitter accusations with the stoical line "You're right".

The Variétés production is most sympathetically set by Georges Wakhevitch, whose palatial first-act veranda intensifies the glacial chill of Jérôme's lifeless well-bred household. With the arrival of the other groups, the ice speedily breaks up; notably at the entrance of Marcel's rowdy family who turn their side of the stage into

a games area with the spirited old granddaughters, while the remaining ladies telegraph their disapproval with the frosty click of knitting needles. The grandmother is played by Denise Grey, an enchanting actress who made her debut at the Folies-Bergère in 1915. The casting throughout Dux's production is superlative; and the central duel between Guy Tréjan's commandingly adipose captain of industry and Jean-Pierre Cassel's wry, shoulder-brushing artist-type brings a classic collision of Caligula's opposites.

Cyrano, whatever compromises it may represent, is a whole of a show, in which Savary's brand of panache runs in fine tandem with that of Rostand's hero. The opening fricas in the Hôtel de Bourgonne, with Gascon cadets and traders of all kinds whooping it up in the jungle style of Savary's Zartan adventures, is barely comprehensible even to the French.

And I doubt the wisdom of presenting the villainous De Guiche (Yann Babilée) as a bearded palsy given to asthmatic coughs whenever he utters his mailed chest. Otherwise the anarchy is well under control, and overflowing with an eight gags. Not only does Savary send Roxane to the front line in a coach with a galloping horse; he then flies the coach to the roof when the cannons open up.

Customers have a choice of four actors in the title role. Jacques Weber, whom I had the good luck to see, eclipses every performance I can remember since Ralph Richardson. He passes the first Cyrano test by opting for a genuinely grotesque nose, which he uses as aggressively as his rapier; and couples his bravado with an open-hearted sincerity that leaves him totally vulnerable in his dealings with Roxane. She, in turn (Nicole Jamet), emerges as a spirited coquette (arriving on the battlefield in purple thigh boots) instead of the bloodless beauties we have seen in the National and RSC revivals; and the partnership of Weber and Jamet with Bernard Bollet's blond, dull-witted Christian lifts the balcony scene to an exalted plane of romance, buffoonery and wit. Of the major directors whose work I saw on this trip, only Savary seems to love his actors.

Television Subtle delights

"It's so Bromley to speak well of people behind their backs", declared an unattractive debutante in the last of Frederic Raphael's series *Oxbridge Blues* (BBC2). This oddly assorted collection of plays has not brought out the Bromley in most critics during its run, but last night's episode, *Sleeps Six*, was a splendid exception.

The plot concerned the rivalry of a whiz-kid working-class film producer and his languid, aristocratic agent. Raphael seems to have a great gift for causing irritation in his critics; there is a flippant fluency about his dialogue, which sounds too clever by half ("My condolences to the chef"). Unlike many British-born dramatists, Raphael unflinchingly deals with the champagne life-style - the climax of this piece took place in a luxurious villa in the south of France and all the sequences which charmingly established our hero's warm, loving, caring, sharing family life took place around the free-form swimming pool. Such sophistication is apparently offensive, not least when combined with viciously accurate observation of a kind of intellectual *demi-monde* in which renegade intellectuals shamelessly acquire wealth by peddling mass entertainment.

James Cellan Jones, who produced and directed *Sleeps Six*, handled the script's frenetic wit and gossamer nuances of caste with absolute confidence; there were marvelous performances by the three principal actors - Ben Kingsley as the producer, with a semi-rehabilitated Sarf Lunnnon accent, Jeremy Child as the embittered, promiscuous blue-blood and Diane Keen in the thankless role of idealized domestic goddess.

The characters of the two men, built up with delightful subtlety, were so satisfyingly familiar that the play had the air of a *roman-a-clef*. Their antagonism began in a lovingly recreated Sixties coffee bar as nothing more than twitting on the grounds of class - a newly discovered conversational topic in that era. As their relationship developed, and fame and fortune accrued, the two men were locked together in fruitless rivalry like doomed swags with tangled ankles.

While our hero enjoyed worldly success, he was still consumed by envy of his friend's social position, while the lord was equally eaten up by jealousy. At the end, with the accuracy of an intimate enemy, he found his friend's Achilles' heel.

Celia Brayfield

London debuts Unusual clarity

The pianist Arthur Rowe from Alberta, in his recital at Canada House, displayed an unusual clarity of articulation at the keyboard, not only in his rhythmic urgency in Mozart's B flat Sonata, K570, but in the steadiness of direction with which he invested Chopin's *Pologne-Fantaisie*. This often elusive work was stripped for action at the outset, as it were, then generated a developing tension while it also gathered poetry of expression.

The programme included *Six Aphorisms* by Mr Rowe's fellow-Canadian and professor of music at the University of Alberta, Alfred Fisher, which explored sonorities of piano wires plucked and stroked as well as the full reach of the keyboard. Sometimes reminiscent of Messiaen in their figuration, they put technical effects at the service of attractive ideas.

The St Clements Orchestra would seem to be a new guise for the small ensemble of 15-16 strings, plus wind instruments as required, favoured by Martindale Sidwell to accompany

his long-standing St Clement Dane Choral, from the Strand church where he has been director of music for over 25 years. The full forces were engaged for a Vivaldi setting of the Gloria that was distinguished by lithe string playing, especially in the faster sections.

Diana Cummings and Desmond Heath as principal first and second violins were joyously matched in their fervid solo embellishment of the chorale melody in Bach's jubilant Cantata No 51, *Jauchzet*.

Mr Sidwell favoured straightforward readings, sparing of ornament, enabling Mark Wildman's burnished bass to speak eloquently for the certain faith of the "Purification" Cantata, No 82, *Ich habe genoss*. Here, as also in Vivaldi, the oboe playing Tessa Miller was of a jewelled artistry, and the orchestra gave downy support to the baroque registration and dancing spirit of John Scott's solo playing in Handel's B flat Organ Concerto, Op 7 No 1.

Noel Goodwin

Pop music

Culture Club Wembley Arena

Of all the supergroups currently vying for public attention Culture Club and their lead singer Boy George seem the most vulnerable. The title of their recent album, *Waking Up With the House on Fire*, tempts fate, as does their American single "Mistake Number Three"; their last singles, "The War Song" and "The Medal Song", were so appalling they could only be defined as mistakes numbers one and two.

Meanwhile, in certain quarters, there are allegations that Culture Club's once impregnable popularity is on the wane; that there is a backlash against their flamboyant leader manifest in a shyness at box-office and record counter. Judging by Culture Club's early dates at Wembley there is some substance to these murmurs even if rumours of the killing of Boy George have been greatly exaggerated.

Surprisingly, the Boy did spend an inordinate amount of time justifying his presence; his comments between songs, usually so sharp, sounded like

the utterances of someone in need of reassurance.

Much of George's patter, and his constant nervous cackling between numbers, was reminiscent of someone re-writing his own history. He referred to himself as "one of the last of a dying breed: pure beef", before launching into his macho put-down "Mister Man, I self-deprecatingly called myself 'an ace favourite' and asked the audience whether he was wearing too much make-up. Of course he was. Some of this was standard George campiness but the overhead video screen accentuated his worry.

The biggest irony of all was that Culture Club were rather good. True, they miss the larger-than-life visual and vocal contribution of the departed singer Helen Terry, and their new material is less persuasive than the older hits, but George's performance is still liable to put a smile on the face.

Culture Club will eventually stand or fall on the quality of their leader's songs, but George has too much personality and sense of survival to let a little thing like a temporary artistic mental block cramp his style.

Max Bell

Royal Ballet Sadler's Wells

How mistaken one can be. When Frederick Ashton made his ballet *The Dream* for the Shakespeare bicentenary, 20 years ago, it was recognized as a workmanlike and entertaining piece but generally thought too long and too old-fashioned to endure. Well, the other ballet created that night has long disappeared, but *The Dream* has become a staple in the repertory of both Royal Ballet companies, besides being taken up by companies abroad.

It was the centrepiece of Tuesday night's programme at Sadler's Wells, opening the resident company's short Christmas and New Year season. There were no childish voices to sing Titania to sleep (economy, or the consequence of school holidays?), but Bramwell Tovey conducted a decent account of the score which John Lanchbery arranged from Mendelssohn's incidental music.

The reason the ballet has worn so well is that Ashton told the story clearly with a minimum of simple, direct mime that anyone can understand, and a maximum of attractive, expressive dancing. Oberon is one of his best parts for a romantic hero, partly because there is a sharp edge to the character, which Roland Price brought out well on Tuesday night investing the long, glittering solos with a smooth flow and bright finish.

Bottom is no less outstanding a role, and also had a notable performance from David Bintley. He gives full relish to the parody solo that begins his transfiguration, glows with unexpected pleasure on meeting Titania, and puts his own gloss on the end of his adventure, accepting normality with almost as much pleasure as he does his memories.

Among the other solo roles, the quiet courtesy of Alain Dubreuil's Lysander gave most pleasure, but these are all good parts that continue to make their effect even on repeated viewing, and a familiar cast performed them with practised ease.

This is also one of the few recent ballets that give much scope to the corps de ballet. The women have two long and complex entries as followers of Titania, and the group of men who play the rustics have a

Dance

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John Percival

The man who worked an economic miracle

The Times Profile: Lee Kuan Yew

Mr Lee Kuan Yew, who is celebrating a quarter of a century as Prime Minister of Singapore, will fight his last general election on Saturday. It is no accident that the tiny republic is also marking 23 years of nationhood this year and that Mr Lee is the longest-serving Head of Government in the Commonwealth.

Several important dates could have been chosen as marking the emergence of Singapore as a separate entity, but the first election victory of the People's Action Party (PAP) with Mr Lee at its head is apt. To the rest of the world Singapore is Lee Kuan Yew and while that designation does a disservice to his fellow founders of the party there is no doubt that without Lee Singapore would not have enjoyed its remarkable economic success.

Mr Lee has never been one for half measures. He and his tightly-controlled, highly developed tropical island provoke marked responses of admiration or revulsion. Economists and investors have nothing but praise for the way Mr Lee and his Ministers have created an oasis of honesty and stability in an area not known for either, but liberals and aficionados of pure Western-style democracy are appalled at the social

'He has driven the island towards economic, political and social perfection'

engineering which the Government has thought necessary to produce that result.

Singapore's mixture of State and private capitalism, underpinned by Mr Lee's unique blend of Confucianism and democracy, has been so attractive to investors that by 1981 one survey rated Singapore the least politically risky for investment of 45 countries, including Switzerland, the United States, Japan and West Germany.

Geography and some inspired work by the successors of Sir Stamford Raffles, who claimed the island for Britain in 1819, laid the foundations of modern Singapore. But it was Mr Lee, with help from the British behind the scenes, who pulled the country out of incipient chaos in the early 1950s.

With important contri-

butions from other members of what he likes to call the "Old Guard", and economic advice from abroad, Mr Lee has given the whole form substance and driven the island's 2,500,000 Chinese, Malays and Indians forward towards his vision of economic, political and social perfection.

He is shaping not just a friction-free, multi-racial society but - as Communists, whose concepts he has occasionally borrowed, have attempted to do - he is moulding a New Man, geared to the economic demands of the 1980s. The energy and discipline of the East are being combined with the practical and innovative skills of the West and cemented by the English language, which is now the principal language of education and the de facto national language, despite Government pretensions to the contrary. If Mr Lee's concept is successful Singapore will become a high technology service and financial centre for Asia, conducting most of its daily business life in English but using Mandarin, Tamil and Malay to preserve its cultural roots.

Mr Lee was destined early for high achievement. His grandfather, of Hakka immigrant stock from China, decreed that he should be educated to be the equal of any Englishman. The young Lee was a brilliant student, winning a scholarship to Singapore's elite Raffles College. There he met his future wife, Miss Kwa Geok Choo, who, like him, read law at Cambridge. She was the first woman from Malaya to be awarded First Class honours, which she took after only two years, a feat which outdistanced her future husband.

Mr Lee's departure for Cambridge was delayed by the war. During the Japanese occupation he worked for the Japanese news agency Domei. As the war ended he showed the first signs of an instinctive sense of timing for tactical withdrawal, so important in a Chinese leader: he sped off to the Cameron Highlands hill station in Malaya because he feared what the returning British might say about his work for the Japanese. That episode has been excised from some accounts of the period, apparently for fear it would make Mr Lee look cowardly. Whatever his other faults he has never publicly displayed a lack of either physical or moral courage. But the notion of



Lee Kuan Yew whose winning formula brought Singapore from chaos to stability

running away to fight another day has served him throughout his political career.

Certainly his political views since his student days have described the classic arc from left to right. A fellow student at Raffles and co-founder of PAP recalls: "He was never really a socialist. At Raffles he was always known as a snob. Singapore's later resignation from the Socialist International, shortly before it was to be expelled, tends to confirm Mr Lee's political transformation."

Singapore's public housing policy had all the hallmarks of socialism in its earliest manifestations. But in recent years, in common with other government programmes, Mr Lee has placed more and more responsibility for the people's welfare on themselves and their employers.

A constant theme of Ministerial speeches is the admonition that people should not run to the Government for succour the moment they have problems.

In Mr Lee's Singapore of 1984 it is sometimes hard to imagine that he took such an anti-colonial stand before independence. There are now more Europeans in the country than before the British left, and most of the economy is foreign-owned.

But his love-hate relationship with the British remains. No one regrets more than Lee Kuan Yew that Britain's world role has diminished or that its economic performance is marred by seemingly uncontrollable forces. As well as his Cambridge education, the influence of his censor, Mr W. S. Thatcher, gave the young Lee an unbending

Victorian sense of moral correctness and an extraordinary example of fortitude in living an ordinary life despite the debilitating effects of a gas attack suffered in the First World War.

Mr Lee is more articulate and lucid in English and in his political analysis than many of his contemporaries in Britain and the United States whose global views he broadly shares. But that does not make him a Westerner in the fullest sense. Despite the fact that he learned Chinese later in life many of his fundamental attitudes are the product of Chinese rather than British culture. At heart he is very much Chinese.

The Western side of his make-up, with the Cambridge Double First in law, sees to it that Singapore is ruled meticulously within the law, but his Chinese pragmatism sees nothing wrong in changing that law retrospectively to meet changing circumstances.

With a constituency of only 2,500,000, Mr Lee has the advantage of having an almost laboratory atmosphere: his relentlessly logical intellectual solutions to human problems can be applied with relative ease, especially with only a token Opposition in Parliament. At times Prime Minister Lee gives every indication of forgetting that there are human beings involved. On one memorable occasion he referred to Singaporeans as digits.

His latest concern, that Singapore will gradually breed less capable workers if the less privileged strata of society continue to have a higher birth-rate than the well-educated, has

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A Falkland Passion
by Venetia Barstrow

Chapter One
Georgia's first thought when she arrived in Port Stanley was that the shops were terribly drab. Oh, she knew that she was 7,000 miles from Bond Street, but really! Did everything have to be so provincial and boring? It was, after all, the week before Christmas and the nearest thing she could see to a Christmas present was an SAS balaclava helmet with holly stuck in it.

Then suddenly she realized it didn't matter. She had no one to buy presents for. She had come out here to the Falklands to start a new life and to forget Terry. For a moment, Terry's familiar crinkled face with its roguish smile swam in front of her, but she fought against the memory. She had to report to Falklands Stores HQ, where she was to act as secretary to one Captain Bolsover. They said that work made you forget...

Saturday

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Flashback: Lee celebrates after the 1959 elections

created controversy both inside and outside the country. His response is classic Lee Kuan Yew: to offer less well-educated women who have already borne two children 10,000 Singapore dollars to be sterilized.

Mr Lee's radical approach would be untenable almost anywhere else in the world, but, as with most things in Singapore, the majority are willing to concede that their leader is usually right and to comply grudgingly with his dicta. Educated women are being coerced into producing more children in an equally direct manner.

Mr Lee believes that intellectually gifted parents necessarily produce bright children. The evidence is around him: he has a brilliant wife, and all his children have been gifted.

"That's the trouble for both Lee and Singapore. He has always been surrounded by brilliance in his own family. He just doesn't understand what it is like to be ordinary," a former diplomat explained.

The offer of cash for sterilization was just the latest in a series of controversial measures relating to the family. In this case it came direct from the Prime Minister's Office, which means that it is unlikely to be negotiable.

Other, less crucial ideas are often floated by a Minister, and if they sink it is the Minister's career that suffers. The National University of Singapore and State concerns are replete with potential political leaders who did not meet Mr Lee's exacting standards or who misinterpreted a directive.

The Prime Minister is quite ruthless with those who fail him. A leader of the tame National Trades Union Council who spent too much time building a personal power base rather than selling government policy was publicly unfrocked and sent off to manage the national shipping line.

Mr Lee has never had many friends since he became Prime Minister. Gosses are the days when he would have a few beers with local journalists. He has

always sought to isolate himself, not only from his wife's law practice but from any exposure to requests for political favours.

He used to play golf with his Press secretary as partner but has now taken up jogging, which requires no partner.

What remains of Mr Lee's milk of human kindness is for political colleagues, so long as they play their role and contribute in a way that he believes they should. Once their usefulness is gone, so are they.

Apart from his strong-willed wife there are perhaps only three people in Singapore, all old political comrades, who will stand up to Lee Kuan Yew, and to whom he may occasionally concede. They qualify because they have shared experiences. They know what it was like to struggle through the early years of Singapore, the battle against the Communists and then the

'Mr Lee rarely fails to consult an old priest before major decisions'

unexpected and unwelcome split from the Federation of Malaysia in 1963.

Though she is rarely seen at public functions, Mrs Lee is a strong influence. Said to be a more gifted lawyer than her husband, she has run the family law firm. Lee and Lee, since the early days. By European standards the idea of the Prime Minister's wife running the country's leading law firm might be thought inadvisable. Mrs Lee is unperturbed by such thoughts, and one attempt to cast doubt on the propriety of the operation brought hefty damages in the wake of a lost law suit.

Just as the agnostic Mr Lee rarely fails to consult an old Chinese priest before taking a major decision, Mrs Lee is able to make points that may not have occurred to the Prime Minister. She interviews all new Parliamentary candidates and

LEE'S WIT AND WISDOM
The ending of colonialism does not in itself result in social and economic progress: it provides the opportunities for it. - *Address to non-aligned summit, Lusaka, 1970.*

Let others play checkers: we play chess - 1972.
I don't know why Amnesty International always picks on people who are not very popular with Communists - 1974.

For every person you lock up, you antagonize a lot of neutrals. So when you do lock a chap up it has to be worth the antismen - *On Singapore's political detainees, 1974.*

We have a reputation, which I hope is somewhat deserved, that we are a kind of little Switzerland in South-East Asia. - *Commonwealth Conference, 1975.*

Our unions are different: if we had British-style trade unionism we should be bankrupt, finished - 1976.

When you are in a jam and you change governments you are still in a jam - *Election campaign, 1976.*

If the United States, Western Europe and Japan cannot summon up the will to check growing Soviet strategic and conventional supremacy, then they will be helpless when their access to vital materials like oil is blocked - 1981.

I don't need to seek fulfillment vicariously. - *On suggestions that his son's entry into politics is an attempt to create a dynasty, 1984.*

HIS RISE TO POWER

1923 Born September 16. Educated Raffles College, Singapore and Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge (Hon. Fellow 1959); double first Law Tripos with star for special distinction.
1950 Called to Bar, Middle Temple.
1950 Married Kwa Geok Choo; two sons, one daughter.
1951 Advocate and solicitor, Singapore.
1954 Formed People's Action Party, Singapore.
1959 Prime Minister.

their wives. In a sense she follows in the footsteps of Mr Lee's late mother, who kept the young Lee on track and ensured his education after his father took to gambling and frittered away a fortune.

After the left wing boycotted Parliament in the 1960s Mr Lee was left without a Parliamentary Opposition until 1981 when the leader of the workers' party, Mr J. B. "Ben" Jeyaretnam, won a seat. Mr Jeyaretnam is a kindly, well-meaning lawyer who sometimes appears to be a politician as much out of duty to his late wife as anything else. He is scarcely Mr Lee's equal in a political skills, and his debut in Parliament saw Mr Lee at his most scornful and disparaging out of shock at Mr Jeyaretnam's unexpected victory.

It was a dramatic reverse for a Chinese leader. In a Confucian society there is no room for loyal opposition. The Confucian leader, to be seen to have the mandate of heaven, must rule with absolute authority and with the people's confidence in him to provide just and honest government.

Of perhaps greater concern was the indication that Mr Jeyaretnam's election could lead to an Opposition, offering bread and circuses, who might dissipate all that Singapore has built up.

For years the principal political question in Singapore has been: "Who will succeed Mr Lee when he goes?" Mr Lee has said that this election will be his last as Prime Minister: in four years' time he will stand down for one of the young technocrats whose careers he has fostered while subjecting them to rigorous examination.

Maintenance of Singapore's corruption-free record, such an important element of its success, will require a man of similar personality to Lee's. This weekend, he will therefore be watching keenly the progress of his son, Brigadier Lee Hsien Loong, who retired recently from his position in charge of Army planning and intelligence co-ordination. The younger Lee, still only 32, is virtually certain of winning a seat and is being spoken of also as a possible successor.

Mr Lee has apparently mellowed in his aversion to an Opposition as such, and up to three losing Opposition candidates will be offered Parliamentary places with limited voting rights after the election. Lee still plays hard at politics, however, and would be delighted if PAP secured another clean-sweep victory.

What then is left to him personally? The new Parliament is likely to enact legislation creating an elected President who would have powers to prevent a government from spending reserves which it had not itself accumulated. Mr Lee has indicated he might be interested in the job.

David Watts

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moreover... Miles Kington

Some soldiers were coming down the street, singing. "Captain Bolsover!" said one of them, leering. "Don't bother with him, love. You'll have a much better time with B Company, eh lads?"

Chapter Two
"Don't worry about the men," said Captain Bolsover. "They mean no harm. It's just that they haven't seen a pretty girl for years and you mustn't forget that men are brutes below the surface."

"You too?" said Georgia, daringly. It was only her second day in the office, but already she felt she could trust his straight, Italianate features, so different from Terry's - damn! She mustn't think about Terry. "I'm not a man," said Bolsover. "I'm an officer." He laughed attractively. "But seriously, you'd do well to keep away from the soldiers. And the natives. I'm afraid that just leaves the sheep. "But tell me, what really brings you here?"

"The end of an affair," said Georgia, blushing. "His name was Terry. I thought he loved

me, but really he loved his boat more. And when he told me he was going to sail round the world..."

Chapter Three
It had been a hard day for Dick Bolsover. As if it wasn't bad enough having Italianate features - his nickname among the men was Luigi, and the officers called him Rocco - to his face - he had been out for a stroll among the hills and come across a soldier who had run amuck. Driven crazy by boredom and rain, the man had

laken his rifle and started shooting sheep at random. Captain Bolsover had to arrest him, of course, but the big problem was the dead sheep. Could the men face roast mutton again?

"I know a rather good recipe for lamb marinated in wine and garlic," said Georgia, later. At supper that night there was a near-mutiny among them over what they called this foreign muck.

Is this love? he asked himself. (Is it love? Or appreciation of good cooking? Or merely some mischievous Italian chromo-somes resurfacing? Don't miss *Ignoramus's* thrilling sequel!)

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 526)

- ACROSS**
8 Clothing agent (11)
9 Voyage record (3)
10 Orkney anchorage (5,4)
11 TV recorder (5)
12 Permitted (7)
16 Marriage partners (7)
19 Royal (5)
22 Lifting car door (9)
24 Meshing fastener (3)
25 Partly porous (4,9)
DOWN
1 Conditioned reflex expert (6)
2 Organized (6)
3 Shears (8)
4 West Malaysia (5)
5 Cougar (4)
6 Intimate (6)
7 Summered (6)
12 Mischievous spirit (3)
14 Lory (8)
15 Spacewalk (1,1,1)
16 Sky straight down (6)
17 Best conditions (6)
18 Star filled (6)
19 Summerhouse (8)
21 Severed (6)
23 Desire (4)

SOLUTION TO No 525

- ACROSS** 1 Hard up 4 Metope 7 Lack 8 Sagacity 9 Intrepid 13 Eat 16 Uninformative 17 Fox 19 Rozenburg 24 Adonoids 25 Stab 26 Refr 27 Lament
DOWN 1 Halt 2 Racemole 3 Pine 4 Midge 5 Tack 6 Pitta 10 Refr 11 Pudge 12 Draft 13 Epicentre 14 Tuba 15 Surf 18 Order 20 Onion 21 Nasal 22 Snag 23 Obit

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Edited by Louise DeSalvo and Mitchell A. Leaska
Hutchinson, £12.95

On the 14th of December 1922, Mrs Leonard Woolf met Mrs Harold Nicolson, the novelist Vita Sackville-West, a florid, moustached aristocrat, a pronounced Sapphist, as Virginia Woolf described her with tremulous excitement. She was intrigued by Vita but doubtful of her chances. The next day she wrote wistfully: "But could I ever know her?" As it turned out, as I need hardly tell you, the denouement being familiar to everybody literate on both sides of the Atlantic, Mrs Woolf knew Mrs Nicolson very well indeed.

Their relationship, though not perhaps precisely living up to the current claims of Messrs Hutchinson that this is one of the most scintillating letters of the century, is a most intriguing affair that literary history has ever seen, definitely had its moments. I especially enjoy the swashbuckling language affected by the ladies, and the sexual imagery is most intriguing, involving shaggy sheep dogs, squirrels, donkeys even porpoises. (Porpoises in fish-mongers, laid out on marble slabs.) The account of the affair in Victoria Glendinning's marvellous biography of Vita was, I found, compulsive reading, and the Virginia-to-Vita correspondence included in Vol. 3 of the Virginia Woolf Letters is endlessly fascinating, maddening, and moving. There is no reason not to want a new instalment. All the more disappointing to have to report honestly that this latest volume, Vita's Letters to Virginia, is, if not quite dull, as-dichwater, a little unenthralling.

Why is it so dead? Well the warning bells sound early with the information that these letters have been edited in the USA not only by Dr Mitchell A. Leaska, author of *Virginia Woolf's Lighthouse*, but also by Associate Professor Louise DeSalvo, who has written, by some all too predictable coincidence, a further learned treatise, *Virginia Woolf's First Voyage*. (One is hardly reassured to be told that Dr Leaska is literary consultant to the Psychoana-

in the editorial preface, which singularly lacks the human virtue of humility) that the editors have done marvels in the way of, for example, establishing the exact chronological order of these several hundred sometimes short and pretty ordinary letters, much concerned with dinner dates and travel routes and ailing livestock, which Vita, not foreseeing the needs of academe, had often dated carelessly. Some, for instance just say "Friday". A serious problem when, as fairly often, the letters had been posted in Germany or Persia.

The editors, undaunted by the vicissitudes of the international postal service c.1927, expect a corresponding dedication from their readers, suggesting a do-it-yourself method of cross-referencing which shows a rather touching faith in human energy. When the reader comes across, for instance, the annotation "See VW 1733", he/she is instructed to turn to *The Letters of Virginia Woolf*, and refer to the letter numbered 1733.

Compared with Nigel Nicholson's elegant, intelligent introduction to the letters of Virginia, Mitchell E. Leaska's introduction to Vita is curiously sycophantic and uncertain, with something of the tone of the awe-struck first-time visitor to England's stately homes. How easy it is, he comments, to imagine Vita as a child "roaming the hundreds of rooms of Knole... imagining little fables of beauty, valour and bloodshed." Dr Leaska is also a master of clairvoyance, an editorial technique of questionable usefulness. In 1925 Vita "could not of course foresee that in three years time she would be reading about herself, garbed as Orlando, skating on the Thames during the Great Frost". Well no.

Down among the footnotes - a realm in which the Leaska/DeSalvo conglomerate again rates rather badly in comparison with Nicholson's annotation of Virginia Woolf's letters and indeed with Anne Olivier Bell's admirably level-headed footnotes to the Diary - the editorial tendency to overkill is rampant.

Such treatment diminishes its subject. Even Vita. She was not (unlike Virginia, the world's best letter writer, this style of reverentially unselective editing makes the more banal of her letters seem mundane, and even the exciting ones acquire a certain crudity. For instance this letter dated 1927:

But how right I was... to force myself upon you at Richmond and to try to tell you the explosion which happened on the sofa in my room here when you behaved so disgracefully and acquired me for ever.

This is Vita Sackville-West but pretty nearly Radclyffe Hall.

Was she saint or bitch?

James Fenton on the first life of our dear Jane for a generation

THE LIFE OF JANE AUSTEN
By John Halperin
Harvester, £25

Considering how many books about her get published, it is surprising to find that the last detailed critical biography of Jane Austen was published in 1938. The novelist holds after all a secure place both in the esteem of the academic community, and in the admiration of what Sir Walter Scott called, in his review of her work, the "middling classes". She actually said that her subject is life among the middling classes, and here one is slightly taken aback. From the distance of time, and without thinking about it too much, one sees Jane Austen's world as rather upper than middling. But that is because everything that seemed to her contemporaries perfectly ordinary (carriages, balls, trips to Bath, the enforced leisure of women) has acquired an extraordinarily romantic glow. The sentimental novelists of today no doubt look to Jane Austen as their patron saint, whereas she was to fact their enemy.

The tone of her writing is satirical, and, to use a term from Professor Halperin's book, realist. And yet it's odd, isn't it, that for so many people reading Jane Austen is a form of escapism. (The reader will see by now that I can't decide how to abbreviate the author's name: if I call her plain Austen, she sounds like a perforce; if I call her Jane, I will be thought sentimental.) Perhaps a key to the tone of some of the novelists' critical lies in the fact that they are writing not against the author so much as against her unthinking admirers.

They want to put an end to this idea that the novels are pretty. They are probably the same people who want to rescue Chekhov from his reputation for lugubriousness. They tell us that Chekhov is uproariously funny and that Jane Austen is cold-hearted and nasty. But we are always slipping back into our old bad habits. Chekhov turns out to be a nasty Miss Austen turns to Jane. People start calling their daughters Emma, although not, for some reason, Fanny. There is a world of Jane Austen, and it is one full of opportunity for fantasy and for the free wandering of the imagination.

Naturally, criticism must try to curb this tendency in us.

Professor Halperin has an uneasy relationship with his subject-matter. He does not for a moment believe that Jane Austen's memory will be much affected by anything that he or any other individual writes about her. He has tried to be careful without being overly cautious, conservative in his assessment of the facts without being uninteresting, and so on. He tells us this in the foreword and we rather wonder why he is telling us. Is it because, since 1938, there has been no material change in the state of our knowledge of Jane Austen and her age? That appears improbable, but the possibility seems to worry Professor Halperin.

He is aware that the Austen family were careful to tidy up Jane Austen's reputation when they presented their evidence to the public; and that a great deal of what was said amounted to pious lies and that much evidence has been destroyed. It should still be possible, since after all there is much documentary evidence left, to produce an interesting and complex account. The trouble is, the discussion tends to dwell on the question: "Was she a saint or a bitch?"

As the patron saint of romantic novelists, she may be portrayed through the anecdotes about the squeaking door, which warned her to conceal her work from public eye, and the fact that she found the Prince Regent to be an admirer of her works. This is terrific 1930s Hollywood stuff. (Never mind the fact that she despised the Prince Regent and tried to wriggle out of the duty to dedicate *Emma* to him.) There come those moments where she lets us down,

notably in the letters with a plainly bitchy remark, as of the woman who had just had a miscarriage: "I suppose she happened unawares to look at her husband".

Professor Halperin writes to her defence over this little blunder, but in a curiously useless way: "To retain a sense of humour amidst the tragedies and ironies of life counts for much. If it is a defence against them, a way of detaching oneself from them, then so much better for the mental health of the possessor. Even at her most malicious and nasty, Jane Austen is sane."

This begs the question as to whether laughing at a woman who has had a miscarriage really betrays a sense of humour. If Jane Austen is to be defended for her bitchiness, perhaps the best line would be to say that she wasn't entirely sane all of the time. She was a bit touched. The disappointments of her life struck deeply. She worried about people producing embryos; and when they lost them she was liable to forget, not deploy, her sense of humour.

One of the actions of her childhood that Professor Halperin mentions that she was as highly indicative of a disturbed mind. One day, says Halperin, she "playfully forged in her father's parish register, in the entry of Publication of Banns the announcement of a proposed marriage" between herself and a fictional character, and on another occasion she put an entry in the Marriage Register, linking her name to a certain Arthur William Mortimer of Liverpool.

This strikes me as being the kind of joke that has got out of hand. After all, parish registers are official documents, and forgery (though not perhaps playful forgery) was a capital crime. At the same time, the form of the practical joke is unmistakable: it is a very striking way of saying to her father - look at me, I am still neither married nor engaged. Like most practical jokes, it's not funny.

On the other hand, Professor Halperin can overreact to his evidence. When Jane Austen says of two sisters that she was as civil to them as their bad breath would allow, he calls this a Swiftian account. But



perhaps the girls did indeed have bad breath; and perhaps it is not so odd to mention this fact to her sister. After all, Professor Halperin says: "Jane Austen was a Georgian, and brought up in the frank atmosphere of the age - an atmosphere which eschewed restrictions on reading or the subject-matter of conversation."

But I don't entirely believe in this frank atmosphere of the Georgian age; just as I don't believe in other things that seem to slip inadvertently from Professor Halperin's pen. Had Bath really been a fashionable place for taking the waters "ever since the Romans discovered its hot springs"? I mean, is "fashionable" the word for "Anglo-Saxon Bath"?

More important, I don't follow all of his literary judgements. Is *Mansfield Park* really Jane Austen's "most unpleasant novel"? Is it true that "almost everyone in it is selfish - self-absorbed, self-indulgent, and vain"? This seems an over-emphatic way of looking at the characters, who are full of nuances. Sometimes I think that Professor Halperin and I have read a different book. Can you really say that Mrs Norris scolds from *Mansfield Park*? I know that the green baize finds its way to her house, and that she is in general a tremendous magpie; but isn't she informally part of the same establishment as the Bertrams? Would even Jane Austen say that she was a thief?

My CUP runneth over

Peter Jones

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS 1984-1984
By Michael Black
Cambridge, £12.50

I was once told that Cambridge University Press did not technically "sell" books, but "charitable distributed" them. Cold charity, some may retort; but as servants of the narrow academic market CUP consistently publishes winners. This sort of excellence, like a Bala, costs. At the school end, CUP's record over the past twenty years has been stupendous.

So this quinquennial celebration of the Press's achievements by the University Publisher Michael Black has something indeed to celebrate. There is something pleasingly thematic about the early years. Soon after its inception the Press found itself embroiled with the Stationers' Company in London over the right to print best-sellers like almanacs and the Bible, which alone could subsidize the academic side. At one time the Stationers were paying the Press £500 p.a. not to print almanacs (have Messrs Maxwell and Murdoch thought of that one?). That battle was resolved after a mere 200 years, but the problem has not disappeared.

Now this is where things become interesting, but herein lies the problem of this volume. We never see behind the mighty public facade. It is too much an "official history". The Press is always right, always wins, and as for top management (who dominate the book, particularly, for some reason, since 1972) - well, knightships all round. But given that the Press is a charity, not taxed, and not allowed to make a profit, what is the nature of its pricing policy? To what extent does it subsidize the severely academic books from the educational range? At all? To what extent does it rely on the US market (a very great deal, I should guess)? Again, the editors themselves, who make the Press what it is, hardly get a mention. Who are the wonderful people who decide the world needs a translation from Latin of the Tudor Statutes of Emmanuel College? What is the terrible secret of the Syndics' meetings? These sorts of issues, which are the really interesting ones to the consumer, are only glanced at. This is a pity because CUP is, after all, a brilliant academic publisher that makes money; and that is supremely interesting.

"A book which is lacking in power," Saul Bellow wrote, "cannot be great. Dullness is worse than obscurity. It will be as good as gold, as nice as pie, as sweet as can be, but if it is banal and boring, it is evil."

Bellow himself is never banal and boring. Like his hero Henderson, the Rain King, he believes in the one and only ticket - to intensity. The welcome reissue of his early masterpiece, *The Victim*, along with Mr Sammler's Planet celebrates his chosen strengths. The problem of the persecution of the Jews and of their persecution of the Gentiles is the subject of *The Victim*. The hero Leventhal works on a trade magazine throughout a sultry summer in New York. He is followed by a drunken dentist Albee, who accuses Leventhal of stealing his job. Leventhal does not see Albee as his victim, but himself as the victim of Albee's demands for compensation. Gradually, Leventhal is made to feel remorse and responsibility for the other's degradation; he is freed from his guilt only by a final act of violence by Albee.

Bellow shows convincingly that both are victims, both are executioners. He reveals the hidden, the tortured, the aching and the giver, the new rich and the new poor. In this remarkable short novel, perhaps the most illuminating in all Bellow's work, he puts a scalpel to the unending guilt of the immigrant to America, the unease of the man who inherits the earth at the expense of those who discovered it first. Leventhal had to realize that the Haves depend on the Have

Blasts from old bellows

FICTION

Andrew Sinclair

THE VICTIM
By Saul Bellow
Secker & Warburg, £8.95
MR SAMMLER'S PLANET
By Saul Bellow
Secker & Warburg, £8.95
ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE
By Hilary Bailey
Hicemann, £8.95

Notes. They have taken what the others had. There should be redress.

Mr Sammler is at the end of his tether, but at the beginning of his wonder. An aged survivor of the world's woes, he sees modern Manhattan as an extraordinary place, an unbrave new world that has such people in it. As he wanders and rummages in the abysses and enclosures of New York, he keeps on observing a beautiful black pickpocket, who exposes himself to Mr Sammler and is finally badly beaten by Sammler's son-in-law Eisen. A nephew Gruner who is a doctor dies in hospital, a daughter steals a treatise on the moon by a Hindu philosopher and Mr

Sammler gives his views on contemporary and past events and the future of the universe.

The book is not lacking in power, but in direction. It is prolix and indulgent, the musings of the older Bellow on the harshness of existing today. The salt has not lost its savour, the knife has lost its edge. But finally, Mr Sammler proves his creator's titanic about wickedness and evil. Even his private notices, was an ancient privilege. In observing criminal acts through the eyes of detachment and kindness, he turns wrongdoing into something rich and strange, the sea-change of describing our urban life that is Bellow's quality and our treasure.

Hilary Bailey has not published for eight years, and now appears in print with a long picturesque saga about postwar Britain, *All the Days of My Life*. Her heroine Mary Waterhouse survives being an evacuee, the teenage widow of the murderer, a racketeer and a goilbird, to become a county lady and an industrial pioneer of the electric car, funded by the royal family because she is revealed to be of the blood of the throne. Of course, her married name is Moll Flanders, in case we miss her true ancestry. Hilary Bailey has an extraordinary ear for Cockney dialogue and a magic power of evocation. The sleazy world of London in the fifties and the sixties, the spivs and the wide boys, the smoozers and the *nouveaux riches* flaunt themselves through mean streets and high places. *All the Days of My Life* is absorbing and yeasty, a novel that should prove a popular investment for the Arts Council grant that encouraged its writing.

Lay on Macbuff con brio

John Higgins

VERDI'S MACBETH
A Sourcebook
Edited by David Rosen and Andrew Porter
Cambridge, £30

When shall we know the sweet delight
Of sleeping well for one whole night?

Thus Lady Macbeth in a Norwegian version of Shakespeare's play, which arrived in translation - or a sort of translation - in London's West End in the middle of the last century. For a time it was argued that Verdi had treated Shakespeare in an equally frivolous way when he composed *Macbeth* for a commission from Teatro Pergola in Florence in 1847 and reworked it for Paris almost twenty years later. A chorus of murderers, jolly tunes for the witches, a *brindisi* for Lady Macbeth, a ballet (at least when it came to Paris)... such were listed among his heresies, especially by those none too familiar with his first opera to a Shakespeare text.

A cloud hung over *Macbeth*. It was not heard in Britain until Glyndebourne, in one of their first ventures of inspired experiment, staged it in 1938. Just about the only aspect of *Macbeth* not covered in the scholarly assemblage by David Rosen and Andrew Porter of letters, documents, texts and contemporary reviews, as well as papers delivered at a conference on the opera at Danville, Kentucky, is why the glass of fashion has altered.

Macbeth was first conceived as an opera in the genre *fantastico* very much in vogue in the 1840s, of which Weber's *Der Freischütz* and Meyerbeer's *Robert le Diable* (to be revived by Paris next summer) were the trend-setters. But Verdi used the opera for considerable musical experiment. During those Florentine days he might have been less conversant with Shakespeare than he later suggested, as William Weaver delicately hints in one of the

TAKI

on drugs: "I have always believed that any apologist for drugs should be locked up and the proverbial key thrown away. The fact that I got caught with some should not disqualify me from preaching or speaking out against them."

JOHN OSBORNE
on the Book of Common Prayer:

"When the Marquess of Hartington was asked what was the proudest day of his life, he replied that it was when his finest pig won First Prize at Skipton Fair. My only similar success is that, after ten glum years, I was instrumental in restoring the Book of Common Prayer to Evensong in my parish church."

DIGBY

ANDERSON
on the Christmas plan: "At 11.45 attend the first Mass of Christmas in a carefully chosen church. After an enjoyable sentimental sermon about angels and a dose of Christina Rossetti, you will be ready for the first champagne of Christmas followed by the eels. Take them from the bath and hold them with a towel on a block. Cut off their heads."

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MEANWHILE, BACK HOME

During the meditative hours of flight between Hong Kong and Camp David Mrs Thatcher may find it less than easy to infuse her thoughts with seasonal charity when they turn to what has been happening back home in Parliament. Even before she left London, the victorious Tory backbench revolt on student grants had been followed by a further triumph of disobedience. A Conservative attempt to modify the GLC Abolition Bill by an amendment to replace the condemned body with a directly elected authority of a different sort was only defeated by a niggardly Government majority of just 23. If the Lords now dig their heels in, can the Government avoid some sort of retreat?

Then there is the rising tide of Conservative insistence that the Government should promote employment by spending on investment programmes. Mrs Thatcher assured the Conservative backbench 1922 Committee before she set off round the world that raising tax thresholds was the better way, which is substantially correct. But there was not the slightest evidence that the increasing number of Tory backbenchers who differ from her on the point have had their minds changed by the prospect of Mr Lawson's budget largesse for low earners.

Now in her airborne absence rebellion has erupted again. In standing committee a group of Tories has joined with Labour to block the Civil Aviation Bill because of fears that the power it gives for Ministers to set rigid limits to the number of flights from Heathrow preempts the decision whether Stansted is to become London's third airport. Even more dramatically, the great weight of vocal Tory opinion has declared itself op-

posed to Mr Patrick Jenkin's announcement of a freeze on £1 billion of local assets (from council house sales) which the dissidents would like spent on capital investment.

Mrs Thatcher must be echoing the irritated thoughts of countless chief executives through the ages who have been frustrated by Parliament's tendency to get above itself and upset the tidy schemes devised by ministers and their officials. James I made some acid comments with parts of which Mrs Thatcher may be tempted to sympathize. "The House of Commons is a body without a head," he told the Spanish Ambassador. "The members give their opinion in a disorderly manner. At their meetings nothing is heard but cries, shouts and confusion. I am surprised that my ancestors should ever have permitted such an institution to come into existence. I am a stranger and found it when I arrived so that I am obliged to put up with what I cannot get rid of."

Mrs Thatcher would hardly echo the last sentence. She is not a stranger and as every other successful politician must she also disposes of any idea that today's parliament is a body without a head. Modern elections and parties provide it with a tidy majority with the chief executive at its apex and James I would probably see some advantages in being a Prime Minister with a parliamentary majority as well as Divine Right to back him.

That system has, however, also produced its critics. With Governments backed by an impenetrable body of members who will not risk letting the Opposition take their place, the House of Commons is criticized

for being too powerless to alter Government's decisions. Its majority may exercise a little marginal influence and the Government, anticipating its backbenchers' reactions, may offer a softening minor concession of two. But can Government backbenchers do more, and if they cannot do more what does parliamentary influence really amount to when the open jousting between Government and Opposition is little more than political point-scoring?

The last few weeks should have reassured the sceptics about the efficacy of parliamentary representation. Government-supporting MPs have increasingly chosen to act as representatives (but not mandated delegates) of their constituents' best interests as they themselves judge it. They are not willing to act as lobby-fodder and are increasingly inclined to call the bluff of "confidence" which the Government likes to attach to its proposals. They have identified issues where important sections of the public feel strongly and they are the only "opposition" that can get things done.

The effective control of the executive rests with the Government's own majority, backed by the Lords who are more willing to dig their heels in when faced with a Tory government which will not abolish them than with a Labour government which will. The backbenchers are sometimes right and sometimes wrong, but all politics are a dialogue in which the contestants are more influenced by their opponents than they care to admit. In a parliamentary democracy, as Mrs Thatcher must know, her little local difficulties are as healthy as they are inconvenient to her.

VOTE FOR MUHAMMAD, AND THE GENERAL

While international attention has been focused on the general elections to be held in India next week, across the border in Pakistan the country's military dictator, General Zia ul-Haq, yesterday held his own quiet election. It took the form of a "national referendum" and it was both a blatant fraud and a brilliant stroke of genius.

On the surface, yesterday's referendum purportedly sought the people's approval of General Zia's policy of Islamization. The result will not formally be announced until Saturday, but it is a foregone conclusion. Given that the country was created out of India in 1947 specifically as a Muslim state, and that 95 per cent of the population is of that faith, it is inconceivable that even a sizeable minority, let alone an actual majority, would dissent. And therein lies the General's strategy.

Behind the front of Islam the General is in fact sneaking himself past the population. Consequently upon the referendum results, but cleverly not mentioned on the actual ballot paper, is the real question of General Zia's own survival. In his speech earlier this month

when he announced the surprise referendum, the General added that he would interpret a "yes" vote as an affirmation of support for himself, and thus consider himself "elected" for the next five years.

Had General Zia frankly and courageously put himself to the test, without the cover of "religion", he would in all probability, have lost. That no doubt was why he did not. Further, not only does this exercise almost guarantee the desired result, but in addition the opposition have been unable to do anything about it.

Now it seems that the only possible remaining opposition hope is that the turnout yesterday eventually proves to have been minimal. If so, General Zia will be forced to disguise it if only to maintain face. His problem will be that hundreds of junior officials in his seven-year-old military regime will be aware of the evidence he is hiding and thus wary of the regime they are supporting. Up till now, there is no reason to believe that there has been a low turnout or that the army is awaiting evidence to turn against the General.

To understand the dilemma

General Zia has placed the Opposition in, one needs to look at the carefully calculated manner in which he has sought to legitimize his dictatorship. From the outset of his rule he chose to link his regime with the revival of religion. He claims that Pakistan has its Islamic foundation and that he plans to recreate the state in line with Islamic principles. But what he has really done, through his policy of Islamization, is to try to establish a direct route of appeal to the Muslim population. The General knows that religion is a powerful force in Pakistan and that as the ruler who has given Islam its rightful place he could gain a lasting advantage. In March he plans to capitalize on it; he intends to hold what he calls Islamic elections for the National and Provincial Assemblies. Precisely what shape these will take is still uncertain but it is already clear that under the guise of Islam, General Zia has outlawed the political parties from contesting again. Dictatorship sustained by religious beliefs in this way is not healthy for democracy, and, in the long term, does the religion little good either.

SUCCOUR THE CHILDREN

Still they come, by thousands and tens of thousands, out of the parched former farmlands and across the mountains to settlements where relief services almost overwhelmed by the scale of the emergency can offer only fragmentary help. As our own reports from Sudan confirm, the famine which for the sake of a name we label Ethiopian is a crisis which affects Ethiopia's neighbours and in varying degree a score or more countries on the fringes of the Sahara. No aid, however quick or efficient, can at this stage do more than mitigate a catastrophe which has already happened; and the evidence is all too strong that the aid is not always either quick, efficient, or honestly administered.

There is a temptation in these circumstances to retreat into a numb helplessness or cynical wrangles about who shares how much of the blame. The scale of the response in Britain and other wealthier countries shows that defeatism has not yet gained much hold - though paradoxically this may be partly because films of the suffering only came out a few weeks ago to give it substance in the public imagination. But in much of Africa, this is the second or third season in which the rains have failed. A third of the continent is more or less affected by drought, and the prospect - for many more seasons of appeals for help, some as desperate as the present one or even more so. A continuous clamour of appeal is at risk eventually of inducing numbness, bolstered by a complacent recollection that Malthus predicted that something of this

kind would be inevitable in the end.

A welcome reinforcement to optimism was given yesterday by the latest annual report of UNICEF, the United Nations children's fund. In a year when nearly five million children have died of malnutrition and disease in Africa alone, it still finds reason for hope. Rejecting the high-technology, high-prestige approach which gave such satisfaction both to donor and recipient governments in the past, while often inaccessible to most of those in need, it emphasizes the possibilities - and the achievements - of simple and cheap measures in which parents and local communities can themselves take the main role. This change in attitudes is one of the most valuable developments of recent years: in Tanzania, for instance, where one central hospital absorbed no less than 14 per cent of the nation's entire drugs budget, the World Health Organisation and Danish agencies recently proposed a new generic drugs programme which has made drugs more widely available while halving drug import costs.

In a real famine, where even the fertile soil may have been carried away by wind or flood, the opportunities for self-help are relatively slight. But most of the deaths, and most of the malnutrition (which can have life-long stunting effects) occur in conditions of privation short of famine, where hardship and disease gradually debilitate the body to the point of exhaustion. Simple provision of water with salts and sugar, says Unicef, can

strengthen resistance dramatically: it claims that half-a-million children's lives have been saved this year by this means alone. Other basic measures of immunization and health education have been shown to have almost as great an effect.

But what profit, means the ghost of Malthus, in saving children's lives if the land cannot support them, let alone their progeny? It is true that the Ethiopian tragedy is in part a result of rising population (as the Mengistu government reported in the 1970s), Africa as a whole, the poorest continent, is the only one which has not yet experienced a slowing-down in its rate of population growth. The tragedy is a cycle: there many children die, parents have many children; where they survive, smaller families come into favour. The Unicef report cites cases where family planning campaigns aroused little interest until health programmes of the type described were introduced and seen to bear fruits: then family sizes began to fall markedly.

Simple measures of this kind gain trust and are promulgated without need for the hard sell, for they arouse no strong cultural resistance. Effective help is not, and should not be a matter of forcing alien practices on reluctant populations. With tact and attention to real needs rather than to blind adherence to ideologies, the report shows that there is ample and growing scope for helping people in the poorer parts of the world to help themselves.

Hope for healthy Christmastide

From Dr A.A. McLeod

Sir, The latest round of cuts, forced on us by under-funding of the health service, has just closed one of our wards where we care for and investigate cardiac patients. The closure is "for Christmas", but the real reason is under-funding - under-funding of this hospital, this health district, this health region, and this nation in general.

It is not putting it too strongly to say that patients may die as a result of our being unable to admit them for diagnostic tests that might indicate the need for urgent cardiac surgery. I believe that illness takes no account of public holidays and is unconcerned with time of day. Over the years we have come to put up with impaired health services at such times, but an 11-day run-up to the Nativity celebration is scarcely bearable.

Our unit clinician has enforced these closures, but it is not he who is to blame; nor the district health authority officers who instructed him; nor yet the regional health authority who budget so inadequately; ultimately it is the Minister of Health and beyond him the Prime Minister and her Government who stand responsible.

This letter should not be interpreted, as I know it may be by some, as a special plea for cardiac patients. All my consultant colleagues and their patients are suffering too. We are told that the health service costs about £15,000 million a year to run: at £300 a year per head that seems like cheap health insurance to me.

Sir, I hope you will publish this letter because those who work in the health service generally carry on despite the increasing weight of minor adversities - I did not write to you when I had to perform a pericardiotomy operation wearing a nurse's operating theatre dress instead of a surgical suit because of our occasionally inadequate sterile supplies - but the last straw seems to have fallen today.

May I wish all your readers the good fortune not to be ill this Christmas. Though some of my patients will eat well-cooked turkey on the 25th, I am afraid they are getting a raw deal today.

Yours etc,

ANDREW McLEOD (Consultant Cardiologist, King's College and Dulwich Hospitals), Camberwell Health Authority, King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill, SE5, December 14.

Stansted report

From Mr S.H. Cooke

Sir, Yesterday I tried to obtain a copy of the inspector's report on "Stansted airport." I was told that it was not available at the Stationery Office. The man behind the counter did not know why. I sent an assistant to the Department of the Environment in Marsham Street but they had no copies. A further journey to the Department of the Environment offices in Kensington High Street revealed it was out of print.

I asked for assistance by telephone and was informed that the first printing had been such a small run that HMSO did not want to handle it. I was told that the next printing would be at some unspecified date, that the price was unknown but that they would telephone me.

As I live in an area whose peace and tranquillity may be shattered not necessarily by aircraft noise but by the hundreds of thousands of people wanting to live as near to their work as possible, I began to wonder whether the powers that be have already decided to go ahead with Stansted and to save money by not printing an adequate number of copies of the report. Is the promised debate in Parliament to be a mere charade?

Yours truly,

S.H. COOKE, 10 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2, December 14.

From Lady Burton of Coventry

Sir, After studying your leading article, "Stansted can wait" (December 11), and the excellent points put forward I wondered if I might isolate one in the hope that this particular assumption might be worth further consideration. This was "The lost second runway at Gatwick must be counted as a mistake now past retrieving."

I noted with approval the word "mistake". But surely we cannot live for ever with mistakes when these can be rectified. Too many planners' mistakes are with us today. There must be every reason for changing them when circumstances are altered.

In the House on May 23 last I was told in answer to a Question that "the present Government were not consulted about the agreement and are not parties to it. That being the case the Government cannot be bound by its terms." The agreement, of course, was that entered into by the British Airports Authority with the West Sussex County Council.

Sir, in conclusion, might I put forward an assumption of my own. If the air traffic movements suggested after Terminal 4 comes into operation at Heathrow were increased to what is regarded as the more realistic figure of 330,000 (instead of 275,000) and we had a second runway at Gatwick there would be no necessity for any extensive development of Stansted airport.

Yours faithfully,

BURTON OF COVENTRY, House of Lords, December 12.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Great past, but a doubtful future

From Mr Peter Fleetwood-Hesketh

Sir, Kedleston report, December 15) seems to provide as good an example as any of the destructive effects of capital transfer tax.

Such places are often referred to as part of the national heritage. True, the nation is fortunate to have within its shores such beautiful objects of admiration and would be the poorer without them. But the nation had no part whatever in their creation and subsequent maintenance.

But the nation had no part whatever in their creation and subsequent maintenance. Kedleston, with its park, would never have existed had it not been for the taste and enterprise of the Curzon family who commissioned it in the first place and maintained it for over two centuries. Were it not for CTT they could no doubt continue to do so.

Let us consider the effect were CTT to be abolished in respect of private houses now. I imagine the percentage of the national revenue derived from this source to be very small and that it could without difficulty be made up by more

equitable means. The natural heirs of the families who created such places as Kedleston would thus be enabled to continue to maintain the houses and parks and to keep intact their carefully gathered contents.

These places were built, not only to be lived in, but to be seen and give pleasure to the beholder. Most owners have in the past been generous in admitting the public to their private houses, upon request or in aid of charity, though under no obligation to do so. And now, when Government help is obtained, this is sometimes conditional on the public being admitted.

It seems to me that in the case of private houses CTT serves no purpose, save to destroy a precious legacy from the past, and one may therefore be forgiven for sensing here an element of vindictiveness since there seems to be no other explanation.

Yours faithfully, PETER FLEETWOOD-HESKETH, As from: 57 Great Ormond Street, WC1, December 16.

Conditional aid

From Mr Hugh P. Elliott

Sir, The latest news of the famine in Africa prompts another look at your editorial of November 27.

By all means let us have more and better evaluation of the cost-effectiveness of all overseas aid. But the ODA (Overseas Development Administration) have done much more of this in recent years than you give them credit for; and the chief remaining area where they might be questioned lies in the big trade schemes, where aid is tied to British manufactures. These are not cut because the result would be job losses in Britain.

The point is that after the recent cuts which your editorial appears to justify, there is simply not enough money left to get the most cost-effective schemes going. These include, first, disaster relief, which in large areas of Africa is the precondition of all other forms of aid.

There are certain countries where the regime would not be willing to accept the strict conditions necessary. But it is not realised that in many lands in the drought areas the situation is now so desperate that the rulers are ready to accept aid with whatever supervision and controls we insist on.

In the volcanic emergency of the Ethiopia/Sudan crisis, the case is surely overwhelming for an inter-

national disaster relief force (as urged by Lord Cameron and Hugh Hanning, November 11).

Naturally the Dergue is not going to feed the people of the rebel-held areas in Eritrea and Tigray. Hence the refugees. But the hungry on both sides deserve equal help.

But, secondly, for the prevention of future disasters, the most cost-effective aid at all is the long-term task of agricultural development: the provision of seeds, wells, dams and the training of field staff (letters of November 17 et al). Food production has become the top priority.

In my recent travels in Africa, I have been struck by the eagerness almost everywhere to welcome British aid.

This is a time of opportunity for Britain. If our leaders would dare to appeal not to self-interest, but would boldly ask the income tax-paying British public to make a small sacrifice in order to restore cuts and maintain adequate aid for disaster relief and agricultural development the response from most would be surprisingly generous.

Yours sincerely, HUGH P. ELLIOTT, 14 Eldon Avenue, Shirley, Croydon, Surrey, December 18.

Student grants

From Dr J. B. Davies

Sir, I share Lord Flowers's view (December 11) that the storm over student grants drew out the worst in everyone: it is now time for collection of facts and disappearance of rhetoric.

The attention of all those interested in higher education should be directed towards a recent study which showed that the average debt incurred up to qualification by an American medical student was \$22,900 (Moss, *New England Journal of Medicine*, November 22, vol 311, p 1375).

If the pattern of higher education in Great Britain should become like that in America then it would become necessary to review the ability of British students to repay loans in the face of their higher cost of living, higher taxation and lower salaries; for medical students con-

sideration would need to be given to the difficulty in obtaining National Health Service employment beyond the registrar/senior registrar grade!

Perhaps the affray over student grants will alert the Government to a potential further dilemma in higher educational policy if there is truth in the rumour that the Chancellor of the Exchequer is considering a levy of value-added tax upon books and journals.

If value-added tax should be imposed on books and journals, then the already heavy financial burden upon individual students, members of the professions, learned societies and libraries would be made even heavier.

I. BLEDDYN DAVIES, Charterhouse Clinical Research Unit Limited, Boundary House, 91-93 Charterhouse Street, EC1, December 12.

US views on Cyprus

From Mr Richard N. Haass

Sir, We were surprised at the pessimistic tone of your paper's November 27 leader, entitled "More discreet proximity on Cyprus". But we were shocked that a publication as reputable as *The Times* would repeat and seem to endorse the totally false charge that United States Government funds were being used to help build an airfield in northern Cyprus.

This allegation is simply not true. The United States is not building an airfield or anything else at Lefkoniko in northern Cyprus. The United States is not financing the Lefkoniko airport, either directly or indirectly. The United States military has no plans for, nor has it given any consideration to, the possible use of a facility at Lefkoniko or anywhere else in northern Cyprus.

In your general assessment of Cyprus diplomacy the editorial seemed too ready to accept that current efforts must fail. We believe the Cyprus problem can be solved and that the efforts of the last several months by the UN Secretary-General have been energetic and well conceived.

Indeed, we trust that you will reassess the prospects for Cyprus given the announcement on December 12 that the Secretary-General has succeeded in arranging a summit meeting for January 17 between President Kyprianou and Mr Rauf Denkash. While much remains to be done, we welcome this important step and pledge our continuing full support to the Secretary-General's efforts to promote a fair and final settlement to the Cyprus question.

The roots of the Cyprus conflict are complex and deeply emotive. Therefore, we regret that you chose to give credence to the false report of alleged US plans for the Lefkoniko airport. Such rumors can only divide further the people of Cyprus and hinder efforts at reconciliation on the island.

We hope that in printing this response your paper will help to calm groundless fears and thus help make possible a successful summit meeting on January 17.

Yours faithfully, RICHARD N. HAASS, (Special Cyprus Coordinator), United States Department of State, Washington, DC, 20520, December 17.

Dropping the pilots

From Commander J. M. Cooley, RNR

Sir, Your article by Stephen Aris (December 7) concerning pilotage comments justly on the need for change and rationalisation, yet in itself irrationally compares like with unlike and is highly selective in its examples.

How can Peterhead, a three-mile pilotage with small or modest ships, be fairly compared with Southampton, some 25 miles, where the largest ships are handled?

Most pilots are indeed self-employed, which enables them to give advice without being under pressure from either port authorities or owners cutting their costs and safety margins to the bone. Yet even whilst bound by by-law and working rule more than many an employee, the pilots are still like all self-employed in that a decline in a port's trade may reduce their income or remove it altogether, as has happened at Preston and Manchester. Even a dock strike can reduce one to labouring on a farm to supplement income.

With regard to change, my station has reduced its numbers by two thirds over the last 10 years and would consider itself lucky to reach three-quarters of the agreed earnings of that of a third officer on a cross-Channel ferry.

The reaction of the General Council of British Shipping is to tear up the agreement on earnings that has been in force for 27 years in the hope of paring their costs still further. This follows the national agreement on earnings, which was never implemented; apparently another legally unenforceable agreement.

Perhaps one could question the necessity for pilots, but increasing interference or disregard for pilots' advice has cost millions of pounds in some accidents even without mentioning potential disasters, such as the HMS Jupiter court martial exemplified.

If it is high time that the pilotage profession is reorganised. It is also high time that a dedicated and highly skilled body of men, whose high death rate indicates the stress involved, are fairly treated.

Yours faithfully, J. M. COOLEY, 23 Ridgeway Avenue, Gravscend, Kent, December 9.

Doubts about an 80mph limit

From the Reverend Michael Smith

Sir, I find it incredible that responsible associations should want to promote the idea of an 80mph speed limit on our motorways (*The Times*, December 15).

The argument seems to be that the law should reflect reality and that the present limit is very widely ignored. Whether this is right or not depends on which area of reality one considers.

One area worth considering is that there are three sorts of drivers - those who keep within the law; those who will drive at 100mph no matter what the law says; and those who feel that if they go just a little beyond the bounds of the law, then that is not at all serious.

This latter group currently see nothing wrong with going 100mph above the current speed limit and drive at 80mph. A change in the law would almost certainly see many of them doing just the same with the new speed limit and driving at 90mph.

Any regular user of motorways can relate how all sorts of vehicles drive far too close to the car in front. The British M-way driver is notorious for this. The proposed change, while sensible considered out of context, is irresponsible and dangerous against the appalling failure to maintain correct driving discipline on our motorways at present.

And I suppose, if it goes through Parliament, there will be people saying in not so many years' time that since most people ignore the 80mph limit, it should be raised to 90mph. Where will it all end? Probably in the local hospital casualty department.

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL SMITH, 30 Grove Vale, East Dulwich, SE22.

Flying wheels

From Professor D. A. Bell

Sir, I cannot agree with the Government that the loss of wheels from commercial vehicles is unimportant (report, December 13, p3).

Some years ago when driving down the M6 I noticed out of my window what appeared like a child's hoop hanging motionless over the central reservation. Fortunately I remembered the navigator's rule that "if the angle stays constant there will be a collision", so I braked and the cast steel locking rim from a lorry wheel landed on my front bumper.

Had it come through the window, which it was originally approaching, the result would have been much the same as that of a lump of concrete dropped from a bridge through the windscreen. We need to know what happens to wheels that come off commercial vehicles before we can dismiss the occurrence as unimportant.

Yours faithfully, D. A. BELL, 87 East End, Wokingham, North Humberstone, December 13.

Christmas spirit?

From Mr Ian Smart

Sir, In all compassion, it is hard to resist the pleas for Band Aid's "disc for Ethiopia" to be free of VAT. In all reason, it is hard to contradict the Prime Minister's judgement that an exemption from the law in this single case would be unfair. Ostensibly, the circle is not for squaring.

In reality, VAT must be paid, handed over to the Customs and Excise and retained. But let the Government, as a separate operation, buy at the commercial price (including VAT) additional copies of the record equivalent to 15 per cent of the number sold otherwise. Without making any VAT exception, the overall financial effect would then be exactly neutral.

The Exchequer would have the same revenue as if the disc had never been recorded. The record company would have the same income to devote to Ethiopia as if the Government had never intervened on either side of the account. As to the additional discs, they might appropriately be given to the British Council for free distribution overseas.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully, IAN SMART, 3 Grosvenor Avenue, Richmond, Surrey, December 15.

Advertising on BBC

From Mr Eric W. Lowden

Sir, The BBC already devotes many minutes every week to advertisements for its own programmes and publications. I see no objection to replacing these puffs with revenue earning material.

Yours faithfully, ERIC LOWDEN, 42 Burke's Road, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, December 14.

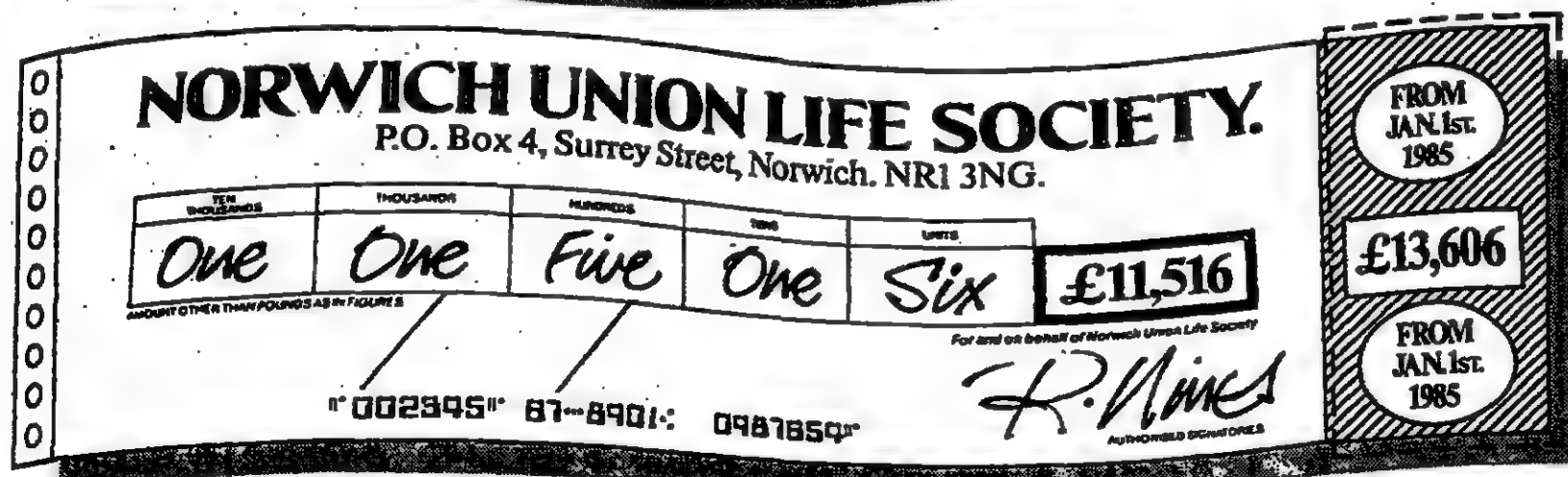
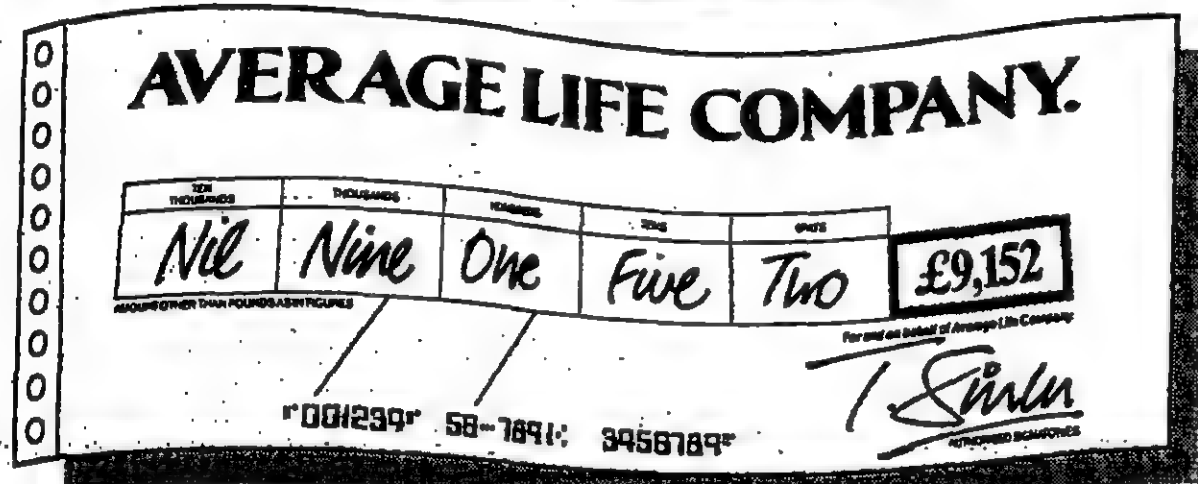
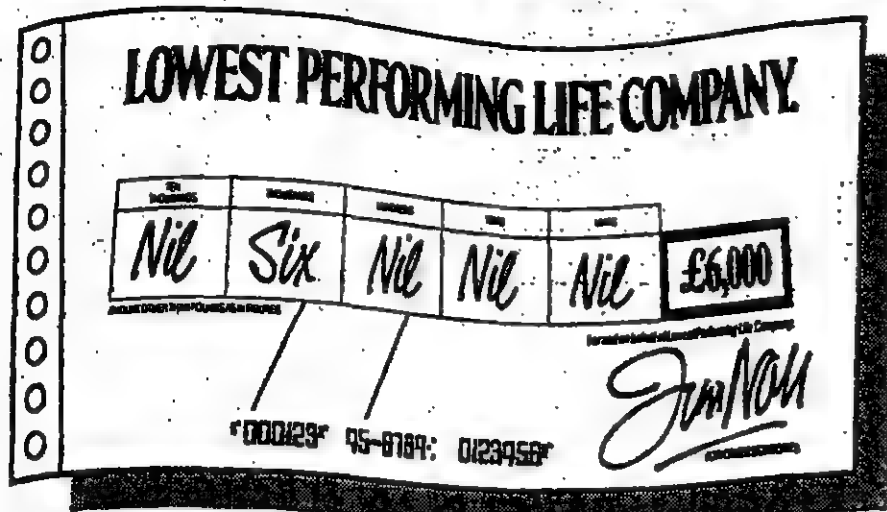
Dressing down

From the Reverend David Reindorp

Sir, On the day when we remember Samuel Johnson and his individual sense of dress, Sir Roy Strong (book review, December 13) does less than justice to the clergy. Shabby-genteel we may be, unkempt, uncombed and at times patched and ragged, holy in the sense that this morning I was with a fellow clergyman who had holes in his shoes; but dowdy never!

Yours faithfully, DAVID REINDORP, 19 Hurst Road, Cambridge, December 13.

Which Insurance Company should I choose?



Why choose the average, when Norwich Union pays out so much more?

The difference in payouts from various Insurance Companies is enormous. A survey in May* showed that a man of 29 who paid £10 per month to a with-profit endowment insurance for 25 years (£3,000) would have received from the lowest performing company a payout of £6,000; from an average company £9,152 and from Norwich Union £11,516. But on 1 January 1985 Norwich Union will pay out £13,606. A staggering difference from other companies.

For shorter terms, we are currently the market leader. Now payouts are being increased still further. By a huge 9%. If a man of 29 had been investing for 10 years, on 1 January 1985 his total premiums of £1,200 would yield £2,563.

FOR PENSIONS TOO

Similar differences apply to with-profit pension policies*. A self-employed man retiring at

age 65 who has paid 16 premiums of £500 per annum (£8,000) would have available to buy a pension a payout of £13,815 from the lowest performing company, from an average company £21,055 but from Norwich Union £22,861. On 1 January 1985 Norwich Union's payout will be increased to £30,106. Another staggering difference from other companies.

Bigger payouts mean a bigger lump sum when the mortgage policy matures and pays off the mortgage. Or a bigger pension. Or even more money for that special dream you're saving for.

EXPERTS IN INVESTMENT

When you invest in a Norwich Union policy, you know that the rewards we offer are based on proven performance.

Norwich Union invests with flair and care in

the most dynamic sectors of the economy. In property and ordinary shares including oil. Our successful investment strategies enable us to provide bigger payouts through bigger bonuses.

And as your financial adviser will tell you, Norwich Union have delivered what they've promised. Often more. Over and over again.

THE POLICYHOLDER COMES FIRST

Norwich Union is a mutual company. This means it has no shareholders to take a slice of the profits. All our profits belong to you – the with-profit policyholders. You invest in us, and we work to build up the substantial benefits you deserve.

We believe there's only one answer to the question: "Which Insurance Company should I choose?" Talk to your financial adviser. We're sure he'll agree you're better off the Norwich Way.

YOU'RE BETTER OFF THE NORWICH WAY.



*Source: Money Management Magazine May & September 1984

ECONOMIC COMMENTARY

Timidity at Treasury will not force silence on the wets

By Tim Congdon

Reflation, the battle cry of Tory dissidents, is still not the answer

The "wets" in the Conservative Party, and their many admirers in the other parties, came to the end of what they have to say about economics three or four years ago. Unfortunately, they have found it impossible to stop.

Their views on economic management have become tediously familiar. In essence, they want the Government to "do something" and, since they cannot think of governments doing anything else, they want it to spend more money.

This recommendation is made to sound more sophisticated by being labelled "fiscal refutation". It is to be accomplished by increasing public sector investment and expanding the budget deficit. The idea seems to be that the larger budget deficit will increase demand in the economy, promoting output and employment.

The debate about refutation has lasted at least a decade and has become very boring. So it is tiresome that the counter-arguments need to be restated once again. But, if the refutationists apparently think they can win by repeating themselves often enough, they should not be surprised if they are answered in the same way.

The main objection to refutation is that, if the Government adheres to a non-inflationary monetary policy, the extra government spending has to be financed by sales of gilt-edged securities rather than by monetary expansion. Official gilt sales encroach on the nation's savings pool, putting upward pressure on interest rates.

Higher interest rates discourage private sector spending, partly because consumers borrow less and partly because companies have a weaker incentive to invest. Private sector expenditure is crowded out by increased public sector expenditure, not necessarily by the same amount but enough to make the whole exercise futile as a means of invigorating demand.

Servicing involves higher interest payments in future years. Unhappily, interest payments on the debt themselves represent more government spending. The result is a further increase in the budget deficit, which adds to the national debt.

As ex-finance ministers from Argentina and Bolivia could testify, the only ultimate beneficiaries of this miserable process are dealers in government debt and printers of banknotes. Output and employment collapse when serious efforts are made to sort out the mess.

Fiscal refutation, like alcohol, is doubtfully effective in the short run as a stimulant and in the long run acts as a depressant.

of the worst possible kind. Since these truths were recognized in Britain in the mid-1970s, the ratio of the public sector borrowing requirement to gross domestic product has been reduced from over 10 per cent to about 2.5 per cent.

The refutationists have to concede that a large budget deficit cannot be reconciled with low inflation for ever. Nevertheless, they can retain credibility by urging a relatively short period of calculated irresponsibility in which the PSBR is deliberately kept above its desirable long-run level.

By this means, they might argue, a phase of rapid growth would be generated. The growth would be unsustainable, but it would at least bring some of the unemployed back into work. At the appropriate moment fiscal prudence could be restored, reducing the PSBR and keeping inflation under control.

The difficulty with this proposal is that it assumes a benign cleverness and foresight in governments which financial markets do not believe them to possess. If the Chancellor were to announce that the PSBR is to be increased by 2 per cent of GDP for the next three years, but that after that it is to return to the level previously planned, very few holders of government debt would trust him.

To compensate for the extra riskiness of gilt-edged securities, the Treasury would have to pay

The Chancellor has done sadly little to strengthen financial confidence

higher interest rates on new issues. As we have seen, a spendthrift government can find itself overwhelmed by debt servicing costs if the budget deficit is excessive. The danger is exaggerated and made more immediate the higher the interest rates.

It is this consideration a compelling argument against fiscal refutation in Britain in 1984. Because of the relatively good housekeeping of recent years it is less compelling than in many other countries. In Italy interest on the national debt is almost 15 per cent of national income whereas in Britain it is under 5 per cent.

But the constraint still remains relevant. According to the Autumn Statement one of the reasons for the slippage on the 1984/85 PSBR target is that interest rates, and hence interest payments on the national debt, were under-estimated at Budget time. A substantial increase in public sector investment would undoubtedly have a further damaging effect on debt servicing costs.

There is another, more specific problem with Britain's public sector finances over the

next few years. North Sea tax revenues are likely to peak in 1985/86 at about £12 billion. No one knows for certain how much they will fall thereafter, but it is conceivable that they will be down to £8 billion by 1987/88, the last complete financial year before the next general election.

Significant fiscal refutation would be risky, not just because of what it would do to the PSBR in 1985-86 but also because of the repercussions in later years. If the PSBR were £10 billion next year instead of the £7 billion envisaged in the medium-term financial strategy, it might threaten to reach £15 billion by 1987-88. The struggle to control it would not be politically enjoyable for Mr Lawson.

In fact, when allowance is made for asset sales and North Sea revenues, fiscal policy — as measured by the cyclically-adjusted PSBR — has been more or less neutral since 1982-83. The PSBR is manageable at present thanks largely to the buoyancy of North Sea tax receipts.

Were these receipts to decline sharply after large schemes of public sector investment had been initiated, the Government could find itself in an awkward situation at the next election. Whatever the rights and wrongs of the theoretical controversy over refutation, there are some obvious political disadvantages in proceeding with it now.

These may not bother the wets, but they ought to trouble Mrs Thatcher and her Cabinet colleagues.

The task of fiscal control is eased if the Government enjoys financial confidence, because this leads to more moderate inflation expectations and lower interest rates. Low interest rates reduce the interest payment element in public expenditure. This point is far from trivial when real interest rates are twice the historical norm.

In his first 18 months as Chancellor, Mr Lawson has done sadly little to strengthen financial confidence. In his 1983 Mansion House speech he referred to price stability as an "eventual" objective, but the remark has since been more or less forgotten.

This is not surprising as this year's Budget was pathetic in its programme for inflation (to decline from 4.75 per cent in 1984/85 to 3.5 per cent in 1987/88) and feeble in its projections for the PSBR (to drop from 2.25 per cent of GDP in 1984/85 to 1.75 per cent in 1987/88).

The Autumn Statement, admitting that the PSBR in 1984/85 might be above target, and the Chancellor's recent willingness to speculate about tax cuts in 1985/86, have not increased respect for the Government's financial determination. It will be a pity if their initial failure to set bold targets leaves Treasury ministers constantly and unreservedly on the defensive in their debates with the wets.

The author is economics partner at stockbrokers L. Messel & Co

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Peel turns industrial relics into profits

"Waste not, want not" is an adage traditionally applied to thrifty northerners. It admirably turns up the chairman of Peel Holdings, Mr John Whittaker, whose farming background in Lancashire may well have contributed to his determination to wring every ounce of profit from seemingly valueless assets.

Derelict mill buildings around Rochdale, relics of the once booming cotton industry, provide Peel Holdings with a handy source of income and provide the solid base for its expansionist and highly successful retail developments programme.

Peel has more than 550,000 sq ft of retail space in out-of-town superstores and has just purchased another such venture. The company's strength lies in its ability to obtain pre-lets through the expertise of Mr Peter Jevans, who runs the company's retail division.

His skills, applied to Oriel Foods, Key Markets and Abbeys Markets, will no doubt be brought to bear on Peel's latest acquisition, Bridgewater Estate, Peel's £18 million share offer for the company, is nearly complete with 90 per cent of acceptances due this week.

The acquisition enables Peel to reduce its gearing from 86 per cent to 50 per cent and to expand its equity base.

The dilution of assets per share resulting from the Bridgewater bid should be offset by the rise in the value of its retail portfolio and it does mean the company can go ahead with more acquisitions.

The value of the portfolio rose from just under £7 million to over £46 million between March 1982 and 1984.

This was partly due to injection of the Peel property interests into the Peel portfolio. Large being the holding company for Peel, but also to the ability of Mr Whittaker and his team to spot potentially lucrative retail opportunities ahead of the field.

However, Mr Whittaker does admit that the phenomenal growth rate the company has experienced may be more difficult to sustain in the future.

But the Bridgewater portfolio, comprising 9,000 acres of predominantly agricultural land, could have some plums ripe for the picking.

Mr Whittaker expects Bridgewater to contribute £600,000 in pretax profits for the full year. It means that Peel's high dividend policy can be maintained as assets will no longer have to be sold off to meet the cost. The high dividend policy is there to deter raiders.

Brokers are predicting that the company's pretax profits for the year to March will be about £1.8 million. Mr Whittaker will not be drawn. He says he likes to keep something back, if only to keep a step ahead of the market.

And Peel itself will have to keep ahead of the market having established a success rate that is now built into its share rating.

New town's decision day

● The future of Redditch New Town's commercial and industrial assets could well be decided tomorrow. An important meeting involving new town officials and the Department of the Environment is due to take place tonight and it is likely that a decision will be made on which bid will be accepted for the assets. There are two contenders: the American Harbison Group, a property consortium, and the Tarmac Group with the Globe and Electra Investment Trusts.

Redditch decided to sell its town centre separately so it will not be included in the package on offer and rented housing will be transferred to the local council.

Redditch town centre is being bought by the two lessees, Commercial Union Assurance and the Shell Pension Fund. The price is likely to be revealed tomorrow.

● Mr John Newman, director of Robert Fleming Properties which manages the portfolio of the Fleming Property Unit Trust, looks about to join London & Edinburgh Trust, the property development and investment company run by Mr Peter and Mr John Beckwith.

Mr Newman's appointment would give LET valuable experience on the property investment side.

● London & Metropolitan Estates has been given planning consent for an American-style food court in its Princess Square shopping centre at Bracknell, Berkshire. The court, to be called The Terrace, will be developed by London & Metropolitan and the Abbey Property Fund on the first floor of the centre.

The letting agents are Bernard Thorpe & Partners, Hestley & Baker and Clive Lewis & Partners.

Judith Huntley

CRICKET: ENGLAND TAME EAST ZONE SPINNERS

Fowler underlines case with sparkling century

Gauhati (Reuters) — An exciting century by Graeme Fowler put England on top on the first day of their four-day match against East Zone here yesterday. At the close, England were 277 for eight, with French, the reserve wicket-keeper, unbeaten on 13, and Foster on 14.

On a wicket which showed distinct signs of turn, Fowler's batting partners had difficulty coping with the East Zone's spin attack.

The match was watched by a sparse crowd of barely 2,000.

The stadium in the capital of Assam, India's troubled north-eastern state, was closely guarded by mounted policemen and every spectator was subject to a strict security check.

Scoreboard

England First Innings	114
G Fowler c b Kumar	114
M D Moxon c Jayaprakash b Doshi	35
A J Lamb b Jayaprakash	23
C S Cowdrey c b Kumar	9
V H Edwards not out	6
P R Downton c Doshi b Kumar	13
P B French not out	14
N A Foster not out	15
Extras (b, lb, w, n, d)	15
Total (8 wickets)	277

Wicket-takers: 1-85, 2-119, 3-180, 4-180, 5-220, 6-243, 7-248, 8-251, 9-251, 10-251, 11-251, 12-251, 13-251, 14-251, 15-251, 16-251, 17-251, 18-251, 19-251, 20-251, 21-251, 22-251, 23-251, 24-251, 25-251, 26-251, 27-251, 28-251, 29-251, 30-251, 31-251, 32-251, 33-251, 34-251, 35-251, 36-251, 37-251, 38-251, 39-251, 40-251, 41-251, 42-251, 43-251, 44-251, 45-251, 46-251, 47-251, 48-251, 49-251, 50-251, 51-251, 52-251, 53-251, 54-251, 55-251, 56-251, 57-251, 58-251, 59-251, 60-251, 61-251, 62-251, 63-251, 64-251, 65-251, 66-251, 67-251, 68-251, 69-251, 70-251, 71-251, 72-251, 73-251, 74-251, 75-251, 76-251, 77-251, 78-251, 79-251, 80-251, 81-251, 82-251, 83-251, 84-251, 85-251, 86-251, 87-251, 88-251, 89-251, 90-251, 91-251, 92-251, 93-251, 94-251, 95-251, 96-251, 97-251, 98-251, 99-251, 100-251, 101-251, 102-251, 103-251, 104-251, 105-251, 106-251, 107-251, 108-251, 109-251, 110-251, 111-251, 112-251, 113-251, 114-251, 115-251, 116-251, 117-251, 118-251, 119-251, 120-251, 121-251, 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HORIZONS

The Times guide to career development

Working at retirement

It is only 10.30 am when George has his first drink of the day. He has already been up four hours although the reason for the early rise no longer exists. He hasn't had breakfast, just tea and a piece of toast. He has been to get the paper and read it and now needs that drink.

George is not alcoholic as yet. The day is stretching before him like featureless landscape, nothing to aim at and nothing to look forward to. He will go to the pub or perhaps not as money is tight. A dose and tea are the highlights of the day. All that has happened to George is that he is no longer working - or, to be more precise, no longer employed.

It is not as if George was unprepared for retirement. He volunteered to go early and had spent some time at work as a steward counselling others in similar circumstances. Despite this, the reality was far worse than he imagined. For many others it is worse still.

Life in industrialised countries is based upon employment. The education system trains rather than educates in both its subject matter and its disciplines, and this is as true at university as at primary school levels. The older notions of education have found no place in the late twentieth century. We ask young people what they want to be and expect an answer couched in job title terms. Employment and the job, its rewards, its status, its identity and its social importance pervade every day life.

Unfortunately not all of us work, and those of us that do have periods when we are left to our own devices. For employees these periods can legitimately be termed leisure, because it is work which defines the existence of leisure.

There are disciplines at work. Time keeping can be ritualised, self-expression suppressed and tasks performed. For the majority of people employment is about doing things that other people have told them to do. The number of people lucky enough to have jobs which they design themselves and where the priorities are self-set is small indeed, although "luck" is a value judgment.

It follows that if the education system prepares people for work, rather than for life, then there may be

Barrie Sherman
on the problems of
not being employed

problems when work is no longer available. George, and there are thousands like him, demonstrates the problem in stark relief.

What work does is less romantic than giving us a sense of purpose, and what employment does is more mundane than inspiring a sense of identity. It structures our time. That is why when we lose employment either because of redundancy or retirement or the aftermath of the child bearing/raising period, we are at a loss.

George's drinking (it may as well have been taking tranquilizers) is only a solitary version of the young person hanging around the street corner because school had prepared him or her for a job and precious little else. In passing, it is worth noting that the palliatives, the YTS and many other schemes, merely reinforce this status quo.

If work structures our time then it should prepare us for non-work. Activity in retirement is not unknown, although most of it is a continuation of working life hobbies, like gardening, bowls and painting. The lucky few get consultancies, but these are people who had knowledge-intensive jobs. Some unemployed people use their skills or expertise to start their own businesses, while others bring the disciplines to bear on their hobbies or interests and convert them into companies.

These people, however, are not the rule. More people feel lost when not at their place of employment than revel in their newly found freedoms. This can trail tragedy in its wake as the mortality figures among men and the attempted suicides among the unemployed show.

The structure of work quite simply does not prepare us for anything else. Our ability to take control over our own time, and over our lives, appears to be impaired by our experiences at work. We carry little away from work into our non-work lives. One explanation for this is that the structures are all already laid down, and that there is little encouragement

to think or to practise innovations on an individual basis. The time is provided by the individual but the circumstances of the job dictate how it is filled.

Work is like a pre-programmed word processor - we sit at it, press the appropriate buttons and the text prints out. Non-work is like sitting in front of an old fashioned typewriter, no matter how much we push the button, and being left with a blank piece of paper.

Unemployment and retirement, and indeed long periods of leisure time, are for some people like writers block.

The way to solve George's problem is not at first sight as easy as it may appear to be. Pre-retirement counselling can help, as can a series of training schemes for the younger unemployed men and women. But these are at best second choices. Both are based on the assumption that working is better than not working, and that full time work is better than part-time. Neither gives the individual the self confidence or the know-how to regain power over their own time.

The answers have to be seen in the longer term. Changes in the way that we educate people are long overdue, and the trend in the US to employ creative generalists rather than specialist technicians should be pointing in the right direction. More important is the change in how we work, and how we conduct ourselves at work. The new systems can be used to decentralise decision making, to enhance skills and to stimulate the art of taking responsibility. At present they are being used in precisely the opposite way.

In Europe flexi-time and flexi-years are becoming more usual and flexible patterns are emerging in the way operations are mounted. For the first time since the industrial revolution employees' managers as professionals pre-empt among them, have the opportunity to structure their own work and working environments.

If they can then this knowledge can be carried over into the non-work areas of life. If not the prognosis is for the first drink of the day at ten o'clock, if George can still afford it. *Career Horizons will appear again on January 7.*

General Appointments

World Famous Jewellers
VAN CLEEF AND ARPELS

Have a vacancy for a

SENIOR
SALES MANAGER

to handle sale of high-class jewellery to VIP clientele.

Only candidates who are experienced in the jewellery trade and of immaculate appearance, preferably bi-lingual (French) need to apply.

Salary and other benefits not less than £25,000 pa. Please apply with CV to:

153 NEW BOND STREET,
LONDON, W1

GENERAL SECRETARY

THE LABOUR PARTY

The National Executive Committee invites applications from Labour Party members for the post of General Secretary. Conditions of appointment and terms of application can be obtained from The Chairman, The Labour Party, 150 Walworth Road, London, SE17 1JT, to whom completed application forms must be returned not later than first post on Friday, 18 January, 1985.

TECHNICAL P.R.
WRITER/EXEC

A fast growing Technical PR Consultancy based in the Reading area urgently needs another Writer/Exec. Essential qualifications are Graduate level education, preferably in a technical discipline, proven journalistic experience, a good news sense, commercial judgment and the ability to work under pressure. Preference will be given to applicants with experience in technical journalism or PR.

The successful applicant will work on varied marketing communications assignments for companies in electronics, computing, telecommunications and engineering.

It's a ground floor appointment in a consultancy that has doubled in size in the last 12 months.

Please write to:

The Managing Director
ROGER STATION ASSOCIATES LIMITED
35 Broad Street, Wokingham, Berkshire RG11 1AU

NABER FISHERY BOARD

Manager

required from September 1985 for River Naber in Sutherland. Management of 3 watchers operation of the sweep net & coastal patrols from Loch Eriboll to Sandiside on behalf of north coast sea fisheries. House, car & pension.

Apply in writing to:-

Sir Marcus Kinball,
Aitharra Lodge,
Laird, Sutherland

UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE

DENTAL HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH UNIT
Applications are invited from registered dentists for the post of

DIRECTOR

of the Dental Health Services Research Unit which will fall vacant on 1 August 1985. Established in 1979 the Unit is based in Dundee Dental School and is funded by the Scottish Home and Health Department to investigate the provision of NHS Dental Services. The Director will be responsible for running all aspects of the Unit including the development of the research programme. Applicants will be expected to have a relevant postgraduate qualification and the appointment will be made at a senior level suitable for the successful candidate. Applications (6 copies) giving full details of qualifications and previous experience, together with the names of three referees, should be lodged by 31 January 1985 with the Secretary, The University, Dundee, DD1 4HN, from whom further particulars of the appointment may be obtained. Please quote reference E51740/84(C).

Golden Opportunity

In 3 years C/S UK have quadrupled their turnover based on a single product of American origin. The time has come to establish new lines to maintain this progressive trend.

An opportunity exists for an ambitious young person to spearhead the marketing of these products within the UK. Products of unshaken quality deserve the best attention and applicants must have a thorough knowledge of the construction industry, gained preferably from an architectural background. Aged around 30 the successful applicant must demonstrate an enthusiastic approach toward personal achievement and the ability to get the best from others. Exceptional career potential is the reward for success.

Please send full CV to
The Managing Director
CONSTRUCTION SPECIALITIES UK LTD
Conspec House, Springfield Road, Chesham, Bucks
HP5 1PW

LONDON COLLEGE OF MUSIC

Applications are invited for the post of

PRIVATE
SECRETARY

Application forms - with job description - available from The Registrar, London College of Music, 47 Gt. Marlborough St., London W1V 2AS
Closing date for applications is February 28th 1985.

Director
of
Social Services

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

To succeed Mr Nicolas Stacey, who is to become Chief Executive of the London Docklands Arena Trust. The Social Services Department has a reputation for innovation in one of the largest County authorities, serving a population of 1.5 million.

• RESPONSIBILITY is for the management of resources embracing a budget of over £60m, 110 establishments, and about 6,500 employees.

• THE REQUIREMENT is for relevant senior management experience, and the ability to deliver imaginative service and maximum value for money.

• PREFERRED AGE 40s. Salary range at present up to £34,563.

Write in complete confidence

to A. Longland as adviser to the Authority.

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SEARCH & SELECTION

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International Flue-Cured Tobacco
Growers' Association (IFTGA)

The purpose of this Association is to promote and develop common interests of member flue-cured tobacco producers throughout the world, whilst recognising the competitiveness between such producers.

SECRETARY

Applications are invited from suitable, experienced and qualified persons for the position of Secretary of the IFTGA whose offices are to be established in England, Western Europe or USA.

The successful applicant will be responsible to the Chairman of the IFTGA for the overall function of the Association. The position, in particular, will entail the following:-

- + The establishment of the office and the secretariat.
- + The establishment of, and the maintenance of, close liaison with international manufacturers.
- + The establishment of an information service to serve all of its members.
- + Liaison and advice to all members.

Prospective applicants should therefore:-

- Hold a CIS or similar recognised professional qualification or practical experience.
- Be a mature and responsible person with at least 10 years managerial experience.
- Have the ability to communicate with all categories of personnel at an international level.

The Association offers:-

- A competitive salary and gratuity.
- Contributory pension fund and life assurance
- Medical and dental aid.
- Generous leave conditions.
- Normal fringe benefits.

Applications will be treated in the strictest confidence and should be addressed to:

THE CHAIRMAN, IFTGA,
P.O. BOX 1781,
HARARE, ZIMBABWE

To arrive not later than 20th January 1985.

LAND AND MARINE
ENGINEERING LIMITED

Is an International Maritime Civil Engineering Company involved in the construction and development of submarine pipelines, particularly related to the offshore Oil and Gas industry.

The Company invite applications for the position of

SECRETARY/PERSONAL
ASSISTANT

to provide the full range of secretarial duties which initially will include assisting in the opening of the new London office and the setting up of new working and administrative procedures to promote the Company, and its marketing policies.

Applicants aged over 25 should be self-motivated and be able to work without supervision and have had some experience working as a secretary or Personal Assistant with an International Company preferably in offshore oil and gas.

To apply, write giving brief details of Career to date to:-

THE PERSONNEL MANAGER
LAND AND MARINE ENGINEERING LTD
PORT CAUSEWAY
BROMBOROUGH, WIRRAL
MERSEYSIDE L62 4TG

WYSE

UK SALES EXECUTIVE

LONDON BASED C.£30,000 OTE + CAR

The Client - Wyse Technology is a substantial public company enjoying remarkable growth through sales of an advanced range of Visual Display Units and Microcomputers.

The Job - Liaison between our clients UK distributors and their offices in the USA and Taiwan, negotiation with major customers and advising on technical matters. Co-ordination and maintenance of the UK sales and marketing effort.

The Person - Well qualified in electronics the successful candidate will have a proven track record in sales and marketing of appropriate computer equipment.

Interviews will be held on Sunday 13th and Monday 14th January 1985. If you wish to be considered please write (in confidence) with C.V. to Ref WY 46.

RTS

SALES EXECUTIVE (NORTH)

N.W. ENGLAND C.£20,000 OTE + CAR

The Client - RTS Technology is a growing company specialising in the distribution of computer terminals and microcomputers.

The Job - Responsibility for expanding the groups sales in the Northern region.

The Person - The successful candidate will have a strong track record in selling relevant products and will possess appropriate technical knowledge.

If you wish to be considered please write (in confidence) with C.V. to Ref RTS15

TPL (Recruitment) 200 MUSWELL HILL RD., LONDON N10 3NG

EXPERIENCED COCOA
PLANTATION MANAGERS

Vacancies exist in Papua New Guinea for Managers who have estate development and administrative backgrounds and a proven ability to handle human resources.

Apply in writing to: General Manager, Coconut Products, PO Box 94, Rabaul, Papua New Guinea.

JOURNALISTS/Writers

Enthusiastic street wise London Journalists required for exciting new projects.

Deputy editor to cover news, politics and people and two reporters to be out and about in town putting their fingers on the pulse of the capital.

If you think you've got the drive and energy we're looking for and are immediately available tell us out yourself and your experience to date by telephoning

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BOC Cryoplants

SENIOR INSTRUMENT ENGINEER

BOC Cryoplants Limited require a Senior Instrument Engineer at their North London site. The successful candidate will be required to specify equipment and control systems, to assist in the selection of suppliers, to inspect certain equipment at the supplier, and, in certain circumstances, to commission equipment and control systems on site. Experience in computer controlled process plant is essential. A chartered Engineer would be preferred.

Benefits as befits a large company, including 25 days holiday per full year, plus 8 days statutory Bank Holiday, and a contributory pension fund. A generous relocation package can also be offered.

Application, including a full C.V. should be sent to:

J. V. Langrell,
Personnel Services Officer,
BOC Cryoplants Ltd.,
Angel Road,
Edmonton, London N15 3BW.

INTERNATIONAL
APPOINTMENTS

Tour Escorts

A de luxe American travel company requires:
(a) Bilingual Escorts with world-wide experience working permanently.
(b) University graduates in the following areas: French, German, Spanish and Russian.
CVs and photographs to be sent to: The Managing Director, International Operations, All International, c/o 8 Newmarket Court, Newmarket Road, Melrose, Wrotham.

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We are looking for a personable, efficient, responsible, co-operative, efficient person to join a small, growing, computer based company in Kent. The person must be experienced in the basic principles of a computer system and be able to install and maintain information and control systems. The person must also be prepared to assist the information manager and carry out research. The person must be an added advantage. Salary for experience. Apply by telephone in the first instance to Virginia Foster, The Energy Institute Centre.

01 225 0233

REVERSE STUDIOS

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

SALARY £12,000

Must be able to draft accounts for presentation to auditors and have some previous finance experience. Applications in strict confidence to: CHIEF EXECUTIVE, REVERSE STUDIOS, CHURCHILL, HAMMERSMITH LONDON W6 7RS. Reverse Studios is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Attractive second floor flat conveniently located for all amenities including Knightsbridge shops. The flat is charmingly decorated with some good antique furniture and consists of one double bedroom, dining room, bathroom, 6.30 months.

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CHATELAIN, Kensington, Balgravia & Knightsbridge are areas where the property market is particularly hot. We recently let a number of properties. We require more houses & flats in the areas of Chelsea, £2500 p.w. with 1 & 2 bedrooms. Telephone 5140 1000 for immediate attention March & Co. 5/8622

MULTINATIONAL COMPANY urgently require quality properties in England, Kensington, Mayfair, Chelsea, Maidenhead Estate, & GC50.

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Today's television and radio programmes

BBC-1

00 Coexaf AML

30 breakfast. Time with Frank B. Rowland, *Selling Scott*. News from Fern Britton at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quarter hours and at 8.59; Sport at 6.40 and 7.40; regional news, weather and traffic at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; programme choices at 8.55; a review of the morning newspapers at 7.18 and 8.18. Plus the Breakfast Time Doctor and Glynn Christian's festive fare between 8.30 and 9.00. The guest is Rod Hull with *Emu*.

05 Telling Stories. The final programme in the radiovision series, broadcast simultaneously with Radio 4 deals with *Mortality*. Among those taking part are Richard Hoggins, a police policeman turned sex-shop owner who has now embraced Christianity, philosopher Alan Ryan, the Bishop of Stepney, Jim Thompson, and Sir Monty Python at 9.00. **10.30 Play School** (r), 10.50 *Children's*

30 News After Noon with Richard Whitmore and Molla Stuart. The weather details come from Michael Pail 12.57

Regional news (London and international) 1.00

00 Pebble Mill at One Includes the final of the Youth in Business Award and music from Shakaaz 1.45

Fingerbobs (r).

The Afternoon Show presented by Barbara Dickson and Panny Lunn. Among the topics touched on today are retirement and social drinking. There is also an interview with Chris Sear, 2.40. *Beauty is in the Eye*. The last of four films looks on the ludic of Polynesia (r).

00 War at Sea. Ludovic Kennedy traces the history of the four-year life of the German warship, *Schmarnhorst* (r).

00 Cartoon. Tom and Jerry in *A-Competition* Snowmen 3.48

Regional news (not London).

Play School, presented by Ben Thomas 4.10 SuperTed.

5 Jackanory. Michael Barrymore reads part four of *The Land of Green Ginger*. 4.30 Screen Test Christmas Special. The champions meet a guest team representing Grange Hill. 4.50 John Cowart's *Newsnight* 5.00

5 Blue Peter. Simon Groom switches on the Christmas illuminations in Moushole, Cornwall (Coexaf) 5.20

5 Henry's Cast 5.25 Grange Hill. Episode 15 (r) (Coexaf) 5.58

Weather.

00 News with Sue Lawley and Nicholas Witchell.

London Plus.

The District Nurse. The final episode of the series and Megan faces a dilemma. Should she stay in Pancorn or should she leave and find happiness elsewhere? (Coexaf).

Top of the Pops presented by Simon Bates and Janice Long. *The Front Line.* Sheldon is upset when his half-brother, now a policeman, arrests one of his hares, Biff Martins, a small-time crook. 2002. Jeremy Charles visits 2002 that specialise in close contact with uncaged animals (Coexaf).

News with Julia Somerville.

Crimewatch UK. Nick Ross and Sue Cook present a series of reconstructed unsolved crimes in an effort to jog your memory.

Taking Sides Special. More than 100 members of the mining community of Shirebrook in North Derbyshire debate their predicament.

Crimewatch UK.

Macmillan at War. Lord Stockton recalls the negotiations that led to the Armistice.

Weather.

TV-am

6.25 **Good Morning Britain**, presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen. News with Jayne Irving at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30; 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; sport at 6.39 and 7.37; guests: Nicholas Parsons, Faith Brown and Silvino Trampotto from 8.45; exercises at 8.46 and 9.20; exercises at 8.51; pop video at 7.45; Faith Brown remembers Christmas past at 8.16; film review at 8.34; Tina Turner solves Christmas problems at 8.47.

ITV/LONDON

9.25 **Thames news headlines** followed by *Seaside Street*. 10.25 *The Moomins* (r).

10.30 **Under the Same Sky**. Tom Baker with a story from Germany. Sina, about the horrors of having a car stolen abroad.

10.50 **About Britain**. Vic of the Scillies is a portrait of Vic Trenwith, bus driver and taxi operator who has been entertaining islanders and tourists and sang and hummed for nearly 60 years.

11.15 **Video and Chips**. Computer knowledge for the young 11.25 *Razzmatazz*. Pop music.

12.00 **Flicks**. Cartoon films of children's books, presented by *Cherry Hill* (r). 12.10 *Mooncat* and Co and guest Patsy Rowlands 12.30 *The Sultans*.

1.00 **News** at One 1.20 **Thames news** with Robin Houston 1.30 *Police in the City*. Drama series about the battle for control of a California wine business. Starring Jane Wyman.

2.30 **Daytime**. Sarah Kennedy chairs a studio discussion on a March special of *Importance* 3.00 *University Challenge*. The second leg of the final between the Open University and the University of St Andrews. The questionmaster is Ian Barber. 3.50 *Caricatures*.

3.25 **Thames news headlines** 3.30 *Film: Scout's Honor* (1980). A made-for-television movie, starring Katherine Helmond and Wilfred Hyde White, about a middle-aged woman who convinces her children who are reluctantly persuaded to organise a cub scout group. Directed by Hugh Levin.

4.15 **Newsbreakers**.

4.55 **Blockbusters**.

5.00 **Thames 5.00 Thames news**.

5.45 **Crossroads**. Gladys Banks learns some news about John Litchford from Michael Brownlow.

7.00 **Knight Rider**. Keith Knight and his computerised car go to the assistance of a committed social worker who is being scared off her ranch by a gang intent on claiming her rights.

8.00 **Duty Free**. The last programme in the comedy series about two couples on holiday in Spain.

9.30 **Film**. More drama from San Francisco's St Gregory Hotel where, this week, Mrs Cabot's erratic behaviour is causing the staff concern.

10.30 **TV Eye**. The Third Man. Will it be safe to fly the Atlantic with a smaller jet and less fuel? Yes, says the airline planning to introduce two-engined passenger jets flown by two pilots on the North Atlantic route. No, say the pilots who argue that the risk of crashing means that at the risk of passengers' lives.

11.00 **News at Ten**.

11.30 **Film**. *The Wild Bunch* (1969) starring William Holden, Ernest Borgnine, Robert Ryan and Edmund O'Brien. Drama set in the not-so-Wild West of 1914 when a gang of cowboys, chased by bounty hunters, plan a raid on a railroad office on the Texas border, unaware that their deadliest enemy has set a trap for them. Lots of gore as one would expect from director, Sam Peckinpah.

11.55 **Night Thoughts**.



Stanley Holloway: Champagne.
Charlie (Channel 4, 5.00 pm)

● Although **OFF THE BEATEN**

TRACKEE (BBC2, 8.00pm) shelters under the umbrella of *Commercial Breaks*, the series that gives big business a human face (more often than not giving it the face of a man of colour, which I suppose makes it even more human), see it more as an addendum to the recent *In the Deep End* films because, like them, it is about a chirpy David taking on a scowling Goliath. It seems that the long-haul package holiday trade, which scans horizons far more distant than Benidorm or Corfu, is dominated by half-a-dozen top names, and has been for years. The one that has been the most successful was required of Meon Travel, a mere fledgling, when it threw its hat into the ring with the intention of shocking sophisticated travellers into thinking that they were being

CHOICE

offered something different. You might think it odd that one of the "something different" attractions for sophisticates, dwelt on at some length in tonight's film, is a trip deep into the Jungles of Borneo to dwell among head-hunters, (admittedly reformed) sharing naked
 ● **THEY LIVE!** In *Madagascar* with bamboo stalks and with a cluster of shrunken human heads standing in for the floral baskets considered de *rigueur* in Benidorm and Corfu.

● You could easily begin to lose patience with this **LOVED ONES** (BBC2, 9.30) a *Forty Minutes* documentary about a medical centre for animals in New York, if you allowed mental pictures of the

Ethiopian famine tragedy or the
 Bhopal gas disaster to get in the
 way. This expensive haven for
 distraught pet-lovers, privately run
 and spectacularly equipped,
 numbers among its patients a dog
 who, every 10 days and for the past
 five years, has had to be given
 insulin injections. There is a
 consultant animal behaviourist to
 manage dog-aggression, and a
 specialist to cater to their pet's
 preference for surfaces on which to urinate.
 And there is a pet bereavement
 group where heartbreak is pooled
 so intensely that, if you happen to
 switch on your television set at this
 point in Ted Glibsky's film, you will
 think that they have suddenly come
 upon a post-funeral family
 gathering, in deepest mourning for a

Peter Davalle

BBC 2

3.50 *Cee'fux*
3.55 *Backstage at the White House. The last episode of the series on the lives of Presidents of the United States is seen through the eyes of a mother and daughter who, between them, worked in the White House for more than half a century. In this episode the episode's host Harry Truman is played by Harry Morgan, Andrew Duggan is Dwight D Eisenhower and John Anderson plays Franklin D Roosevelt (t)*
5.30 *News summary with subtitles*
5.35 *Film: The War Wagon (1967) starring John Wayne, Kirk Douglas and Howard Keel. Wayne plays a perjured prisoner bent on taking revenge on the man who put him prison and also took his farm. The ex-prisoner, Lew Jackson, recruits a gang to steal a gold shipment that is guarded by an almost impenetrable horse-drawn steel wagon. With Keenan Wynn and Bruce Cabot. Directed by Burt Kennedy*
7.10 *The First Noels. Part four of the series traces the history of carol concentrations on those written when the monarchy was restored to the throne following the Puritan period. Presented by Sir Geraint Evans and featuring the Choir of All Saints Church, London*
7.25 *Open Space: Blues and Beyond. Part two of the series celebrating black music. From London's Moor to Chicago's Jullio Finn, with performers from Africa, America and the Caribbean, play blues, reggae and griot music from West Africa*
8.00 *Commercial Breaks. The final programme of the series follows the fortunes of a small holiday company who have taken the decision to expand into the competitive exotic holiday market. A new chief executive, Graham Phillips, secures the world for out-of-the-ordinary places and by October the new brochure is out. Will it attract any potential holidaymakers? (See Choice.)*
8.30 *Food and Drink Christmas Special, presented by Chris Kelly. The best buys in Christmas pudding and suggestions for disposal of turkey leftovers*
9.00 *Entertainment USA. Jonathan King is in Seattle where he discovers why the Washington city has become the testing ground for avant garde plays and films*
9.30 *Forty Minutes: The Loved Ones. A documentary about the ever-oppen Animal Medical Center, New York (See Choice)*
10.10 *The Travel Show presented by Paul Heinley includes reports on wintertime in Tenerife; on what you get for your money at Mayrhofen in the Austrian Alps; and on a British Rail mystery tour*
10.45 *Newsnight*
11.30 *Buongiorno Italia! (t). Ends at 12.00*

CHANNEL 4

2.30 The British at War. The series of British wartime documentaries and propaganda films, introduced by Leslie Halliwell, continues with *Asia Wars* - a film made by Humphry Jennings in 1943 that tells the story of a day in the life of members of a London Auxiliary Fire Service substation during the blitzes of 1940-41. *Then: The True Story of Lill Martens* - which depicts the story of the German song and dance company that was taken to a marching song and *Cameras at War*. A tribute to the camera operators of the Allied armed services and the new and competing film companies. The commentator is Raymond Glendenning.

4.30 Countdown. This second semi final.

5.00 Film: *Champagne Charlie* (1944) starring Tony Trinder and Virginia Hayman. Period piece about the rivalry between two Victorian music hall entertainers during the 1880s. Directed by Alberto Cavalcanti.

7.00 Channel Four News.

7.50 Comment. With his personal views on topical matters, Importance is Canon Charles Walker of the South London Catholic Caribbean Chaplaincy.

8.00 The Road to Itang. A documentary about the small Ethiopian border town of Itang which, 18 months ago, had fewer than 500 residents. Today that number has swollen to 60,000 because of the influx of refugees who have fled from the political uncertainties in southern Sudan. They say they are fleeing from a country that itself is reeling from famine. Despite this, a massive relief operation has been set up to cope with the ever-increasing numbers of refugees turning Itang into the largest refugee camp in Africa for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The narrator is Terence Stamp.

8.30 International Gymnastics. Steve Bird introduces the highlights of the 1984 Coca-Cola Tournament from the Wembley Arena.

9.30 *Film on Focus: Winter Flight*. 1984 starring Reece Dinsdale and Nicole Cowper. Romantic drama about a shy young RAF pilot who is a 1984 winner of the Bird Control Unit of an RAF base and his attachment to a Naafi barmaid, set against a background of a war alert. Directed by Roy Battersby.

11.30 The Wine Programme. The first programme in Jancis Robinson's informative series examines the wine-making technology used by the Californian growers (r).

12.00 Soap. Jessica is swept off her feet by the South American who is holding her heart.

12.25 Ian Breckwell's Christmas Diary. What happens at a party in Hammersmith.

12.30 Closedown.

Radio 4

On long waves, 7 a.m. on VHF.

5.00 Shipping.

6.00 News briefing: 5.55 p.m.

6.30 Fanning Today: 5.55 Prayer.

6.50 News: 6.00, 6.15, 6.30

6.50 News: 7.25, 7.35 Sport: 7.40

7.00 News: 7.15, 7.25 Sport: 7.40

7.15 For the People: 7.25

Yesterday in Parliament: 8.57

Weather: Travel.

9.00

9.05 Telling Stories: An audience of 151 at their views on the subject of morality. (A spontaneous gathering of 1000 people gathered.)

10.00 News, Medicine Now, with Geoff Watts.

10.30 Story Series: 'Ereom' by Sella by Robin Pearson, Read by Neil Stacy.

10.45 Daily Service: Advent Calendar: The Annunciation.

11.00 News: Travel: This Thing Called Love: Laurie Taylor asks the eternal question - can simple things be made more complex?

11.28 The Case Against God: Last of eight programmes in which C. S. Lewis' arguments are used to the existence and character of God: Verdiction and the Sentence. New: You and Yours.

12.00

12.27 News: 12.30 Weather.

1.40 The World at One News.

1.40 The Archers 1.55 Shipping.

2.00 The Annals of How: Today's edition includes a Christmas Symposium, an anthology in words and music.

3.00 The Annals of How: The Humanisation of George Meyhew, by Jill Hyam. With Moir Leslie and John Rowe. Romance drama when a woman breaks into a flat occupied by a bachelor.

4.10 News: Enquire Within with Neil Landman.

4.10 Bookshelf: Radio 4's good books programme. With Hurst Davies.

5.00 Story Time: 'The Lovely Lady' by D. M. P. Read by the author. Two episodes (1). Read by Rachel Herbert.

Long Forecast

8.30 My Word! Didsy Powell and Frank Muller challenge Antonio Fraser and William Wilkison.

7.00 News.

7.20 The Archers.

7.30 The Archers: With William Wilkison.

7.30 Carols From Liverpool. Richard Baker introduces the annual carols and Christmas music direct from Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool. (Part 1)

8.20 News+ with John Timpon.

8.40 Carols From Liverpool. Part 2

8.50 The Archers in the BBC Sound Archives.

9.45 Kaleidoscope. Arts magazine.

10.15 A Book at Bedtime: 'Just Reading' by Peter McElderry. Extracts from his recently published autobiography. (4). Read by the author. 5.55 Weather.

10.30 The World Tonight.

10.35 The Financial World Tonight.

11.20 Tonight in Parliament. 12.00-12.15 News.

11.30 The World Tonight. Shopping VHF (available in England and Wales only) Radio 4 vhf is as above, except 5.55-6.00 am.

News Travel. 1.55-2.00 pm

Listening Corner. 5.50-5.55 PM (continued). 11.00-11.30 Study on 4: Joining In.

Radio 3.

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News.

7.55 Morning Concerto: Liszt's Piano Concerto No 2 (Bernas, soloist, with Vienna Solo under Gullini); Schubert (orchestra); Rutter's Cantata de Jean Rucellus (Cambridge Singers); Tchaikovsky's Suite No. 3 (The Cleveland Orchestra under Matzeff); 8.00 News.

8.05 Morning Concerto (soloist): Bach's Suite No 1 in C (BWV 1066) (orchestra); English Chorus; Poulenc's Suite française (Tschohno, piano); Jarosek's suite The Cunning Lizard (orchestra).

8.30 This Week's Composer: Bizet.

Radio 3

6.55 *Weather, 7.00 News.*
7.05 *Morning Concerto: Liszt's Piano Concerto No 2 (Berman, soloist, with Vienna SO under Giulini); Faure's (orchestrated) Ruler's Cantique de Jean Racine (Cambridge Singers); Tchaikovsky's suite The Nutcracker (Cleveland Orchestra under Maazel). 18.00 News.*
8.05 *Morning Concerto (cont'd): Bach's Suite No 1 in C (BWV 1008) played by English Concert; Poulenc's Suite française (Toscanini, piano); Janacek's suite The Cunning Little Vixen. 19.00 News.*
8.05 *This Week's Composer: Bizet.*

Radio 2

[illegible]

Radio

6.00am Adrian John, 7.00 Mike Read,
9.00 Simon Bates, 12.00pm Gary Davies
incl 12.30pm Newsbeat, 2.30 Steve
Wright, 5.00 Bruno Brookes incl 5.30
Newsbeat, 7.30 Janice Long, 10.00-
12.00am Into The Music with Tommy
Vance.†

WORLD SERVICE

[illegible]

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

NEWS OF WALES weekdays, 5.30-5.35
News, 5.30-5.35 Wales Today, 5.30-5.35
Grange Hill, 5.30-5.35 **Week in**
Week Out, 11.50am-12.00 **Zoo** 2.00
Scotlands, 12.57pm-1.00 **The Scottish**
News, 1.55-1.58 **Scoring Scotland**,
6.30-6.00 Cause for Concern, 11.50-
6.50 News and Weather, Northern
Ireland, 12.57pm-1.00 **11.00-11.50**
News, 1.55-1.58 **Scoring Scotland**,
6.30-6.55 Inside Ulster, 11.00-11.55
News and Weather, England, 6.30pm-
6.55 Regional news magazines.

SAC Starts 10.00pm **Countdown**, 1.30
Ant, 2.00 **Philadelpia**, 2.15
Interval, 2.15-2.30 **Ant**, 2.30
(Margaret Lockwood), 4.05 **Black** and
White and **Read All Over**, 4.35
Ant, 4.35 **Ant**, 4.35 **Ant**, 4.35 **Ant**, 4.35
Gwylid, 5.20 **Mary Taylor Show**,
5.50 Brookside, 6.20 **Y Nadolig** **How**,
6.30 Teulu-Film, 7.00 **Newsday**, 7.30
Ant, 7.30 **Ant**, 7.30 **Ant**, 7.30 **Ant**, 7.30
9.10 Arts Review of the Year, 11.05
Kabul Unseen, 12.05 **Closedown**.

ANGLIA As London except: 10.25
am Cartoon, 10.45
Christmas Story, 11.05-12.00 **Christmas**
Message, 1.20 **am** 10.00 **Film** **Sunderland**
Champions, 3.30 **Sons and Daughters**,
4.00 Cartoon, 4.15-5.15 **Stamewley** **Ice**,
6.00 Action Anglia, 6.35 **Crossroads**,
6.50 News, 7.00 **News**, 7.00 **News**, 7.00
10.30 Action Anglia, 11.30 **Star Parade**,
12.30 am What Christmas Means.
Closedown.

BORDER As London except: 10.25
am 10.00 **Film** **Sunderland**
(Harry Secombe), 1.20 **News**, 1.30-2.30
Return of the Saint, 3.30 **Young Doctors**,
4.00-4.15 Film **Oliver Twist**, 6.00
10.00 Cartoon, 6.30 **News**, 6.30
Emmerdale Farm, 7.30 **Knight Rider**,
8.30 Never the Tweak, 9.00-9.30
Parade, 10.30 **Yellow Rose**, 11.30
11.50 am **Star of Bethlehem**, 12.35 **News**,
Closedown.

BIRMINGHAM As London except:
10.25 am 10.00 **Film** **Sunderland**
(Harry Secombe), 1.20 **News**, 1.30-2.30
Return of the Saint, 3.30 **Young Doctors**,
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10.00 Cartoon, 6.30 **News**, 6.30
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8.30 Never the Tweak, 9.00-9.30
Parade, 10.30 **Yellow Rose**, 11.30
11.50 am **Star of Bethlehem**, 12.35 **News**,
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Entertainment

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